

Teacher rules 'will bring school chaos'

Staff ordered to count every working minute

By John Clare, Education Correspondent

The two biggest teachers' unions are to provide guidelines on how to apply to the letter the terms of the contract imposed on them in their pay dispute with the Government. They predict that this will bring chaos to schools. Teachers returning from the Easter holiday will receive detailed guidance on how to interpret the pay and conditions contract imposed by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

It urges them to count every minute they work both in and out of school. The aim is to ensure that they do not spend more than 1,045 hours a year with their pupils: more than 95 hours a year in marking or preparing lessons at home; more than 50 hours a year in staff discussions relating to the "wider educational needs of the school"; more than 30 hours a year attending or preparing to attend parents' meetings; or more than 10 minutes a day supervising pupils as they arrive at or leave school. The document tells teachers that members of both unions must follow the guidelines exactly if they are to be "protected against exploitation".

It claims that Mr Baker's imposed list of duties "creates a potential for local authorities and some head teachers to make demands which teachers would consider wholly unreasonable". It also asserts that the guidelines are not meant to be a form of disruptive action. Advice on that would be issued later.

It points out that the new contract divides teachers' time into two categories: "directed time" which is confined to 195 days a year and is not to exceed 1,265 hours a year; and "such additional hours as may be needed to enable a teacher to discharge effectively his professional duties". The guidelines say that should not exceed 2½ hours a week.

Directed time is defined as activities during a normal school day, work stemming from functions listed in teachers' individual job descriptions and "reasonable direction from the head-teacher consistent with the imposed conditions of employment".

The document says: "Any activity which cannot be so defined will not be counted as directed time and members should not engage in such activities." It points out that time spent invigilating external examinations should be added to the total hours worked, as must the time spent on "extra-curricular activities outside the normal school timetable". The document continues: "Where teachers are involved in residential activities involving pupils, the whole period of travel and stay should be counted in respect of the total number of hours per year. In this context, a day is counted as 24 hours."

It says: "The Baker imposition seeks to require teachers to perform activities which were previously held to be voluntary. It is possible that as a result some head teachers will be encouraged to make unreasonable demands of teachers."

The document's clear implication is that once teachers have fulfilled their quota of hours, they should stop working.

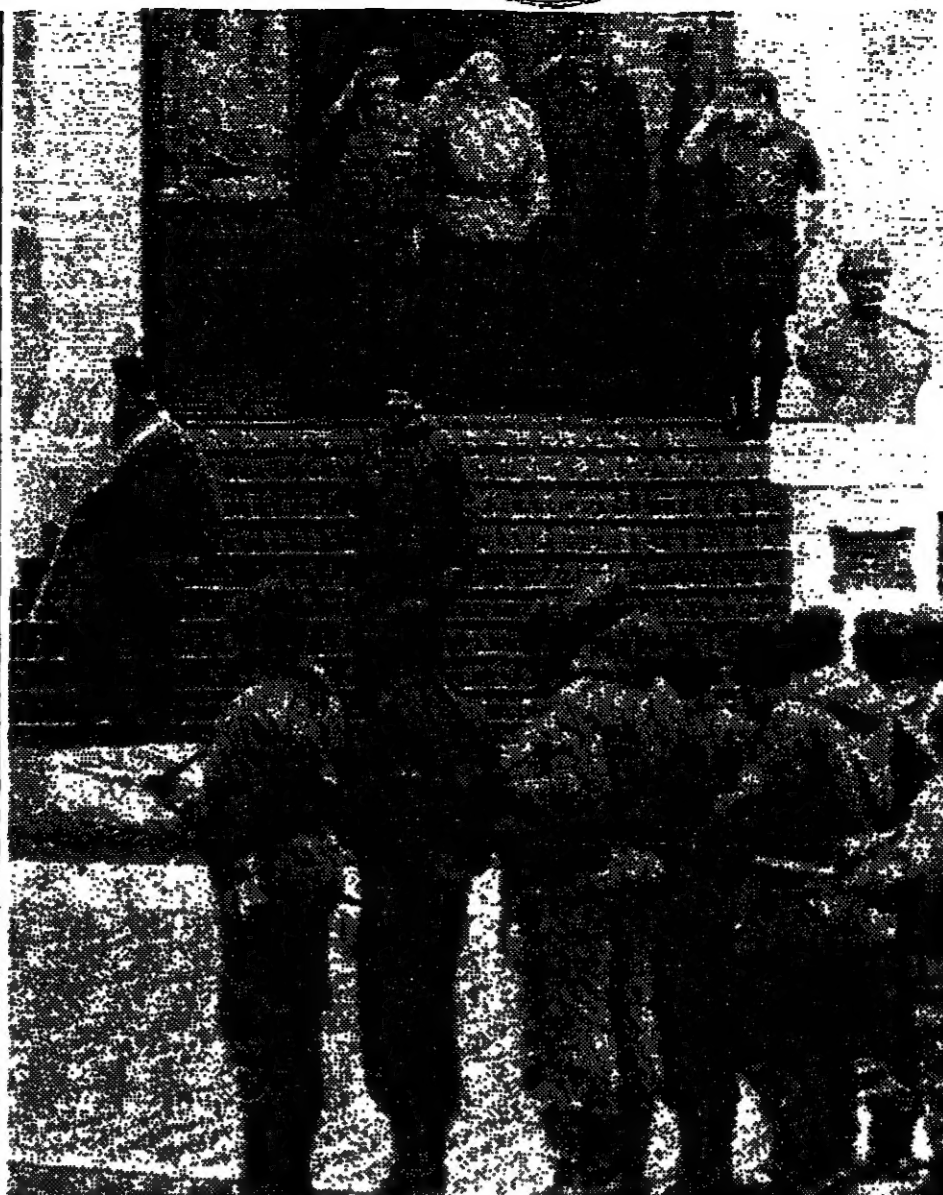
Mr Fred Smithies, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said yesterday that made no apologies for the guidelines.

"Mr Baker's autocratic decision to impose conditions of service on teachers is wrong and hateful to people who choose to organize in trade unions. There would have been anarchy if we hadn't interpreted the law for our members."

A substantial minority of delegates at the National Union of Teachers conference in Eastbourne had voted to throw out the guidelines in favour of total non-compliance.

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Surrender: A rebel officer emerging with a flag from the infantry school at the Campo de Mayo base, west of Buenos Aires, as others stand to attention and salute.

Defence minister given Argentine Army reins

From Eduardo Cui, Buenos Aires

In the first of what are expected to be major changes following an Easter weekend rebellion by more than 100 officers, Señor José Horacio Jaurena, the Defence Minister, yesterday assumed temporary command of the Army, replacing the fired chief of staff, General Hector Rios Ereñu.

In another development, the leader of the rebellious soldiers, Lieutenant-Colonel Aldo Rico, claimed in published interviews that the three-day takeover of a military academy had ended "because we reached an agreement with the President of the country in his role as chief of the armed forces".

The Government insists there were no negotiations of any kind, but the removal of General Ereñu had been a key demand of the 150-200 rebellious officers. The emergency plumed President Raúl Alfonsín's Government into its worst crisis since the return of democracy more than three years ago.

General Ereñu's replacement was expected to be named in two or three days. Speculation indicated that General Augusto Vidal, who played an important role in ending the crisis at the Campo de Mayo base, would be approached to fill the post. Should he be named, 14

more senior generals would also have to be retired to facilitate the expected restructuring of the top command. President Alfonsín and Señor Jaurena met yesterday to discuss the expected changes.

Argentina yesterday lived through its first normal day in almost two weeks. The military crisis, which began last Thursday when a group of officers took over an army garrison in the north, had been preceded by the visit of Pope John Paul II.

The rebellion at the 14th Airborne Infantry Division, what transpired during the meeting between the President and the rebel leaders, many of whom are Falklands War veterans.

Señor Alfonsín, accompanied by a few aides, met for 15 minutes with Lieutenant-Colonel Rico and Jorge Venturino, a captain.

The three officers, who greeted the President as their Commander-in-Chief, immediately began to express their grievances, say published accounts. But the President interrupted: "I am not here to listen to any demands whatsoever."

Señor Alfonsín then read the sections of the military code of justice that the men were violating. After a brief conversation among themselves, the officers decided to end their action.

Lieutenant-Colonel Rico, who was arrested with the other rebel leaders, said he and his men had accomplished their objective — an effort to find a political solution to the problem posed by human rights trials of military officers.

He said that the President had recognized in his speech announcing the end of the crisis "that our action was motivated strictly by military considerations and was not a coup attempt".

Reconciliation bid... 7

staged to support Major Ernesto Guillermo Barreiro's refusal to appear before a civilian court investigating human rights abuses, ended on Friday after he fled the base.

But by then the insurrection had spread to the military school in the giant Campo de Mayo site to the west of Buenos Aires. The unprecedented crisis that ensued ended only when the President flew to the base as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces to order the rebels' surrender.

More details were made available yesterday about

US and Japan seek to smooth trade friction

From Bailey Morris, Washington

Trade troubleshooters from the United States and Japan yesterday sought to prevent further escalation of the friction between the two which has already led Washington to impose penalty-tariffs on Japanese goods.

The tariffs, brought into place on Friday, look unlikely, however, to satisfy the protectionist lobby in Congress which is planning legislation to try to reduce the huge US trade deficit.

As the brinkmanship continued on both sides of the Pacific, there were growing signs that the two governments, mindful of the danger to the world economy that an all-out trade war would mean, were hoping to settle the issue of semi-conductors, or microchips, at the centre of the dispute.

Officials of both governments have predicted the early resolution of the semi-conductor question. The US claims that Japan was dumping the components in breach of a bilateral pact.

Mr Shintaro Abe, the former Japanese foreign minister, yesterday met members of President Reagan's Cabinet in Washington to find a solution to the tariff war which threatens the forthcoming state visit of Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister.

Acting as the Prime Minister's personal envoy, Mr Abe came armed with fresh market-opening proposals, designed to diffuse the tensions between the two nations. Before his departure from Tokyo, Mr Abe declined to be specific on the new trade package, saying only that it "would emphasize the broader US-Japan relationship."

Congressional officials said, however, they doubted that the efforts of Mr Abe and Mr Nakasone would result in a return to normal relations with Japan.

Yesterday, Mr Abe met Mr George Bush, the Vice-President.

Rice imports, page 21

dent, Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Secretary of Defence, Mr George Schultz, the Secretary of State and leading Congressional officials to build support for the proposals before Mr Nakasone's visit on April 29.

But Mr Abe acknowledged that he remained concerned over the outcome of the talks in the aftermath of the dispute over a computer micro-chip agreement. Accusing Japan of failing to keep its promises, the US last Friday imposed 100 per cent duties on Japanese electronics imports.

Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US Trade representative, said:

"Cabinet ministers are this week expected to present the Prime Minister with some of Britain's strategy options for forcing Japan to open up its market to British goods."

"As soon as we have been able to establish a pattern of compliance, the sanctions will be lifted."

Both governments have said they will do everything possible to avert a trade war. But it was unclear whether the Reagan Administration's show of strength and the market-opening measures offered by Mr Abe would satisfy Congress. In both parties, there is a growing fear over the economic consequences of the record, \$170 billion US deficit, officials said. More than one-third of the deficit is with Japan.

The US House is scheduled to vote on restrictive trade legislation just one day before Mr Nakasone's visit and officials have given a warning that the bill will contain an amendment requiring the President to retaliate against surplus-trade nations.

Mr Richard Gephardt, a Democratic Presidential candidate, said he would press ahead with the amendment which he predicted would pass through the House.

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INSIDE Aids blood test wins award

An Aids blood test has received a Queen's Award for Technological Achievement. Wellcome Diagnostics, a subsidiary of the Wellcome Foundation, developed the test in collaboration with the Middlesex Hospital Medical School and the Institute of Cancer Research in London. It is now widely used in Britain and has been adopted in Africa, Europe and the Far East. Page 21

Report, Pages 26-30

£1m directors

The £1 million a year director will soon be a reality, according to a survey of the UK's 2,000 fastest growing private companies. Page 3

IN PART ②

Everton nearer

The Football League championship is almost Everton's after their 3-0 victory over Newcastle United, which opened a six-point lead over Liverpool who lost 1-0 to Manchester United. Page 40

National first

Britanny Boy won the Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse, the first £100,000 steeplechase run in the British Isles. Page 37

Portfolio

Gold

● The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition resumes today after the Easter holiday with £4,000 to be won. Portfolio list, page 24.

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Traffic jams end a record Easter

By Mark Ellis

Traffic jams and a spate of accidents last night marked the end of one of the busiest Easter breaks on record.

By late afternoon there were long delays for traffic leaving the West Country, south coast resorts, North Wales and the Lake District, despite motorway organisations urging drivers to stagger their journeys home.

The M5 near Taunton in Somerset was closed to all traffic when a coach caught fire on a contra-flow section. More than 20 passengers were led to safety by firemen. In West Wales three people

were killed after two cars collided head-on on the Brecon to Swansea road near Ystradgynlais. One of the drivers, Mr Godfrey Owen, aged 23, of Ystradgynlais, Powys, died instantly. A passenger in the other car, Mr Steven Harwood, 34, of Abercraf, Powys, and his wife, Pat, aged 30, died later in hospital.

The early season boom was brought on by the warmest Good Friday on record with 73F (23C) recorded in London and Jersey. The average temperatures for the four-day period were: London 64F (18C), Jersey 66F (19C).

Continued on page 20, col 1

Airline mergers

Price pledge for passengers

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

Britain is to press for a new European competition law to protect passengers in the event of airline mergers.

Mr Michael Spicer, the Minister for Aviation, said yesterday that it would be "essential" to ensure that the big new airlines being planned for Europe did not stifle competition by swallowing up their smaller competitors to the detriment of passenger interests.

"We must never allow ourselves to get in a position such as that in the United States where four or five giant airlines now have a monopoly in different parts of the country and completely dominate the aviation scene."

"That is the very antithesis of competition and must be prevented from happening in Europe."

Airlines throughout Europe are now talking to each other about merging to create groups big enough to be able to compete against the American and Asian giants. One of the leading proponents of such corporations, Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS), is close to clinching a deal with the Belgian national carrier, Sabena.

This could eventually be followed by further mergers involving Finnair, Austrian Airlines and British Caledonian. Preliminary talks have already been held.

Mr Spicer said that European ministers would have to

establish some mechanism to examine such proposals and prevent them if they were against the public interest.

The British concerns will be presented formally at a meeting of European transport ministers planned for early June. It is hoped that agreement can be reached on a gradual move towards full liberalization by 1992.

That would involve a gradual relaxing of constraints on the number of flights allowed between two countries, the number of airlines which can fly within Europe.

If no deal is reached at the meeting, the European Commission is likely to invoke the free competition rules of the Treaty of Rome.

Britons ambushed in Cyprus attack

By Nicholas Beeston

A British Army corporal and the teenage daughter of a warrant officer were recovering in an RAF hospital last night after their Land Rover was ambushed by gunmen on a main road in Cyprus.

The corporal received minor injuries to the leg and the girl, aged 16, was wounded in the back. A spokesman at the army base at Episkopi said their injuries were "not critical".

Cypriot police and military police have launched an investigation to determine if the ambush was the latest in a series of terrorist operations directed against the 10,000 British personnel and their

dependents on the island's two sovereign bases.

The injured Britons were driving from the Dhekelia army base to the base at Akrotiri when the gunmen sprayed their vehicle with automatic fire.

Two masked gunmen waited for the Land Rover in a white Japanese-made car near the village of Moni on the main Nicosia-Limassol road.

The bases are vital listening posts for the Middle East and a number of radical Arab leaders and groups have demanded their removal.

Last August suspected Arab guerrillas fired mortars and rockets at Akrotiri, injuring the wives of two servicemen.

Radio ham's 6,000-mile lifeline saves sailors

By Michael McCarthy

A radio ham from Kent has succeeded where Tony Hancock memorably failed.

The emergency immortalized by the television comedian in 1961 — the distant Mayday message — unfolded in real life as a triumph in the home of Mr Brian Tutt, a butcher from Herne Bay.

His sharp ears and presence of mind led to the rescue of two German yachtsmen in the South Atlantic.

Mr Tutt, known on the air as G4 ZZK, had been using his radio to talk with hams in South Africa and the United States, rather like Hancock, who started his famous sketch chatting about the weather with a fellow ham in Tokyo, playing chess with another in Belgrade and promising to send a tray of bread pudding to a third in Kuala Lumpur.

Then a Mayday message came across the airwaves to Mr Tutt from a yacht in distress, 6,000 miles away in the South Atlantic.

Hancock's mayday signal came from a motor yacht out of Sierra Leone which was holed and drifting 300 miles off the African coast; for Mr Tutt the call for help came from the German yacht *Faia*, in an identical predicament off Ascension Island.

Both men reacted swiftly, but there the similarities end. While Hancock argued with the sinking sailor and then saw his radio set explode, Mr Tutt made a quick note of the emergency message and dialled 999.

"I was put through to the coastguard and I pointed out there were Ministry of Defence facilities on Ascension Island and so probably direct channels of communication". Mr Tutt, a radio ham for three years,

said yesterday. He was right. A message was relayed to the island and an RAF Hercules took off to look for the yachtsmen.

The two sailors were located on Sunday, after a two-day search. They were exhausted and adrift in a dinghy, with their boat at the bottom of the sea.

"I was very pleased I was able to help them", Mr Tutt said. "It makes the licence fee worthwhile, anyway."

Mr Tutt ranges the world in his conversations, just as Hancock did, numbering Australians, Americans and Libya's single ham among his regular callers.

Hancock's problems with valves blowing up are for the likes of Mr Tutt a thing of the past. "The only trouble I ever have", he said, "is interference from the wife's electric carving knife"



Mr Brian Tutt, a distant rescuer.

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NEWS SUMMARY

Riot victims hit by legal wrangle

Six years after the riots in Tyneside, Liverpool, a group of shopkeepers and residents are still waiting for compensation.

Their claims have become embroiled in a lengthy legal process.

The chairman of Merseyside's police authority, Mr George Bundred, says there are also other reasons for the delay, ranging from local government reorganization to an Act of Parliament which covers damage to buildings but does not cater for cars parked outside premises.

He says the authority has paid between £5 million and £7 million in damages since the disturbances.

Mr Bundred said of the Riot Damage Act, 1836 — "Lawyers haven't looked at this Act for 100 years."

Jail brawl charges

Four men have been charged after disturbances between prisoners from Barlinnie jail, Glasgow, and inmates of Low Moss, north Glasgow, where they had been transferred.

A prisoner at Low Moss was stabbed in the neck during the trouble. In two other incidents thousands of pounds of damage was caused.

As a result 26 prisoners were transferred back to Barlinnie. The men had been moved to Low Moss to relieve overcrowding at Barlinnie.

Two die in prank

Two teenagers believed to have been skylarking on the roof of a van were killed when the vehicle was driven under a low bridge at Galley Common, Newcastle, Warwickshire. Their bodies were discovered yesterday.

One youth was named as Adrian Clarke, aged 17, of Harold Street, Nuneaton. Police are trying to identify the second youth.

Later, the driver and four passengers from a blue van which was found two miles away from the bridge were being interviewed by detectives.

Scouts resist attacks

Britain's Scouts were yesterday warned not to go out alone on tasks to help their local communities as Job Week began. This is because of the rising number of attacks on the youngsters.

The advice has been sent from the UK headquarters to the movement's 500,000 Scouts, which now includes girls. All Scouts have been issued with identity cards.

MP marries secretary

Mr Christopher Chope, Conservative MP for Itchen, Hampshire, married his secretary Miss Christine Hutchinson at Wimborne Minster, Dorset, yesterday. The best man was Mr Richard Tracey, the Minister for Sport.

Miss Hutchinson has worked as Mr Chope's parliamentary secretary and researcher for three years.

Sewage sanctuary

The Yorkshire water authority is being urged to designate part of a sewage works at Bradford as a bird sanctuary. The Bradford ornithological group has issued a report describing the 111 species which were seen last year within the Eskott sewage works, which is near the setting for the *Emmerdale* television series.

Face-lifts for inner cities start this year

By Richard Evans
Political Correspondent

A multi-million pound American-style partnership between the Government and the private sector, aimed at tackling dereliction in Britain's inner cities, will begin work after the general election.

After two years of talks between ministers and leading construction firms, three consortia have been formed with the aim of regenerating the nation's most run down areas.

With the help of "pump-priming" grants, the trio are expected to start work this year on building thousands of homes, factories and retail

centres in Manchester, Sheffield, Nottingham, Leicester and the West Midlands.

The next phase of the Government's urban policy, mapped out by Mr John Patten, Minister for Housing, Urban Affairs and Construction, is based on the successful United States experiment which brought private companies and the government together to work closely on inner city projects.

British construction firms were initially cautious about becoming involved in developing some of the most run down sites, mainly because of doubts over the financial return. But those reservations

appear to have evaporated and the companies are hoping for substantial profits.

Ministers believe their attitude represents a growing indication of confidence in the state of the economy. Wood Mackenzie, the leading construction industry stockbrokers and forecasters, recently suggested a 5 per cent growth rate in the construction industry during the next year.

The three consortia formed to regenerate inner city sites are Phoenix Partnership, led by Sir Colin Corness, chairman of Redland; PROBE, led by Mr Norman Wakefield, chairman of Y J Lovell; and the Group of Eleven, which consists of Britain's biggest

construction companies with leading figures including Mr Clifford Chetwood, chairman of Wimpey, and Mr Philip Beck, chairman of Mowlem.

At least two of the consortia are known to have applied for urban regeneration cash which is expected to be granted shortly and work is likely to start by the end of the year.

Mr Patten said yesterday: "The Government is looking increasingly to the private sector to take a lead in the development of inner city areas with the Government providing the framework and pump-priming money."

"This is something I have been working on for the past 18 months, in order to try to

bring the construction industry and the Government Urban Policy much closer together."

A recent survey disclosed the only age group not moving out of the inner cities is the 18-24 category and ministers believe this will help bring economic success back to such areas.

Mr Patten added: "Housing-led regeneration of our inner cities is critical, and the young are going to play a vital role in their social and political regeneration."

"At the moment the inner cities are still losing their brightest and their best and we hope this partnership will turn the tide."

Ulster terrorist campaign

Three held after explosives find

Three people were being questioned last night after a bomb-making factory was discovered in Northern Ireland.

Security forces seized more than half a ton of home-made explosives and a large quantity of bomb-making equipment during a planned search of an unoccupied house in Dungannon, Co Tyrone.

The haul was found on Sunday but details were only released yesterday because the security forces conducted a lengthy follow-up operation, fearing there were booby trap devices around the house.

The three people detained are being questioned by Royal Ulster Constabulary detectives at Gough barracks in Armagh city about the haul and other terrorist incidents.

The seizure is the biggest since last October when 2,000lb of home-made explosives, two machine-guns, six rifles, and a heavy calibre former tank-mounted machine-gun capable of shooting down aircraft were discovered in Lenadoon, west Belfast.

Also on Sunday, two soldiers were treated for shock after an explosion as a mobile patrol operated in Twinbrook, west Belfast. A bomb packed with one-inch ball bearings had been placed on top of a gate at a school entrance.

Meanwhile yesterday, thousands of "loyalists" paraded at Portadown, Co Armagh, at the start of their marching season in the latest test of the province's new public order legislation.

Minor trouble erupted at the end of a road leading to a Roman Catholic area where youths pelted police with beer cans and empty bottles, but most of the Apprentice Boys' March was peaceful.

The new legislation means organizers must give seven instead of five days notice of parades to the authorities. It was expected to provide



The Apprentice Boys marching at Portadown, Co Armagh, yesterday at the start of their first marching season since new public order legislation, under which organizers must give seven instead of five days notice of parades.

Letter bomb alert by Yard

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Scotland Yard yesterday underlined warnings that the public should beware of suspicious packages in the post, as a sixth device in the IRA letter bomb campaign was discovered.

The latest bomb was found by Mr Stephen Sherbourne, political secretary to the Prime Minister, when he came home from holiday late on Sunday night to his flat in Fulham, west London. The device was dealt with by the Yard's anti-terrorist squad and a police explosives expert.

Mr Sherbourne, aged 42, is the second target who works particularly close to Mrs Margaret Thatcher. One of the first letter bombs last week was

aimed at Mr Bernard Ingham, her chief press spokesman.

Detectives suspect that more of the IRA devices, in manila envelopes franked University of Ulster Students' Union, will be found as people return home from Easter holidays.

The letters may have been lying on doormats since last week or could still be in the postal system under a different guise.

No one has been injured by the devices, which were all defused. The IRA has used high explosive for the bombs and police say they are capable of killing or maiming.

All the devices have been aimed at Civil Servants and

political officials linked to Downing Street or the Northern Ireland Office. Their addresses were included in entries in *Who's Who*.

The IRA attacks began last Wednesday, with bombs aimed at Mr Ingham; Mr Brian Urwin, in charge of the economic secretariat at the Cabinet Office; and Mr John Wiggins, who has also worked in the Cabinet Office.

On Thursday two similar bombs were discovered addressed to Sir Robert Andrew, Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Northern Ireland Office, and Mr David Hobson, a former adviser to the Prime Minister's policy unit.

Labour 'should face issues'

By Roland Rudd

As the Scottish TUC annual conference opened yesterday, senior trade unionists urged the Labour Party to steer clear of marginal issues and concentrate instead on the Government's "appalling" unemployment record.

Mr John Edmonds, leader of the General and Municipal workers, warned the Labour leadership that his members would only respond positively to issues such as unemployment.

Speaking on BBC radio, he said: "The message the party keeps giving, mainly through the activities of very small groups of people, is that we are not interested in the central issues."

Mr Edmonds also said the trade unions should speak out for what working people want, such as jobs, health and education.

All three issues are being strongly pushed at the conference in Perth, with the aim of countering Labour's poor standing in recent opinion polls.

Mr Ron Curran, president of the Scottish TUC, attacked the Government's economic record when he addressed the conference yesterday afternoon.

Claiming that Scotland has enough unemployed shipyard workers to build three QE2 liners, and enough out-of-work miners to dig the Channel tunnel, Mr Curran said the Government was in the process of committing the industrial murder of the Scottish economy.

Mr Curran also said the newly elected leader of the Young Liberals dissociated herself last night from calls for the party to split from the SDP and form a rainbow alliance with radical pressure groups (Our Political Correspondent writes).

Ms Rachael Pitchford's comments, at the Young Liberals conference in Great Yarmouth came 72 hours after Mr Felix Dodds, the outgoing chairman, suggested the breakaway should take place after the election.

Mr Dodds, whose remarks were denounced by Liberal Party chiefs, said Liberals should link up with Labour politicians such as Mr Ken Livingstone and groups including the green movement.

But Miss Pitchford said yesterday that Young Liberals would be actively supporting the Alliance at the general election.

TUC call on City, page 4

Parents blame ministers

By Sarah Thompson

Parents will be "devastated" by the National Union of Teachers' decision to boycott the Government's planned national benchmark tests, a key part of Mr Kenneth Baker's proposed national curriculum, the leader of the confederated parent-teacher associations said yesterday.

The NUT conference voted on Sunday to refuse to take part in the attainment target tests at seven, 11 and 14 on the grounds that they would mean more work for teachers and would return education to a version of the 11 plus.

Mr James Hammond, general secretary of the National Confederation of Parent-Teacher Associations, laid the blame for the NUT decision on the Government. "It is a sad reflection on the state of education when teachers feel they have to give such a definite signal to the Secretary of State that they are not prepared to go along with his plans."

Mr John Prichard, vice-president of the confederation, said that the decision was "a manifestation of the teachers' protest against the removal of their negotiation rights."

A parents' revolt against teachers was inevitable, Mr John Andrews, the assistant general secretary of the non-striking Professional Association of Teachers, said.

"When parents see that their expectations for a reliable education service are in jeopardy there will obviously be a backlash."

Top Civil Servants may strike

Members of the top Civil Service union, the First Division Association, are pressing for industrial action in support of a better pay offer.

For the first time in the union's history, branch members are expected to call for some form of strike action when they meet next week.

A majority has made it clear that it is no longer prepared to co-operate with management or work overtime, after a "final" pay offer from the Government of between 4.25 and 6.6 per cent.

A call has been made for the executive to ballot on a one-day strike if an improved pay offer is not forthcoming.

Miss Sue Corby, assistant general secretary, said yesterday: "I am very surprised that our members are prepared to take this action. Although they used to grin and bear it, they now feel it is impossible to run a decent service."

The union claims that top Civil Servants are paid 30 per cent less than people in comparable jobs in the private sector and the rate of voluntary resignations has doubled over the last five years.

Miss Corby warned the Government to take heed of her members' dissatisfaction or face a possible strike.

Thousands of Midlands miners are expected to join a 24-hour stoppage today in support of men dismissed during the pit strike two years ago.

Day dawns for the video telephone

By Robert Matthews

Scientists at British Telecom are experimenting with a new means of sending laser signals over long distances that could lead to a revolution in communication.

The research team at BT's Martlesham research centre near Ipswich hopes to achieve its aim by exploiting the properties of one of the most bizarre phenomena in Nature: the soliton, a single pulse of energy that can, in principle, travel forever utterly unchanged.

This unique property of solitons would allow tens of millions of simultaneous telephone calls to be carried on a single optical fibre. It could also speed the introduction of videophone communication, the development of which has been held up by the relatively small amount of data current fibres can handle.

According to Dr Nick Doran, one of the team investigating soliton communication at Martlesham, even the most advanced telecommunications systems have so far failed to exploit more than a tiny fraction of the true potential of optical fibres now being used instead of copper telephone wire.

The key problem is that ordinary laser pulses start off very sharp, but become blurred as they travel down the fibre.

Solitons, however, keep their shape as they travel. As a

result, far more messages can be crammed into a line.

Dr Doran explained that the soliton owes its behaviour to the fact that the properties of the optical fibre change with the intensity of the laser pulse. Inject sufficient energy into the fibre and a soliton will be created, with its tendency to spread out cancelled out by its interaction with the fibre.

According to Dr Keith Blow, another researcher, mass communication by simultaneous transmission of voice and pictures, the long-awaited videophone, could be one major application.

Although soliton communication is on the forefront of research, the phenomenon itself was first observed over 150 years ago. In a report to the British Association in 1844, engineer John Scott Russell described how, 10 years before, he had been watching a boat being towed along the Edinburgh and Glasgow canal, when the boat suddenly stopped.

The bow-wave, however, rolled forward in a surge of activity and continued upstream. Russell followed the wave, which carried on unchanged, for almost two miles on horseback.

Russell's observations went unnoticed for over a century, until mathematicians discovered the theory behind the phenomenon, which was then christened the soliton, or solitary wave.

Royal tourists wave flag for Britain

By Alan Hamilton
in Madrid

The Prince and Princess of Wales fly out to Madrid today for their first official visit to Spain, at the invitation of their friend and increasingly close confidante King Juan Carlos.

During their four-day stay as guests of the King and Queen Sophia, the royal couple will undertake a relatively undemanding programme of sightseeing.

It will include visits to the ancient Spanish cities of Salamanca and Toledo, and the obligatory tour of the Prado art gallery in Madrid, where they will be exposed to the voluptuous richness of Goya

and the bleakness of Picasso's "Guernica", a few days before the 11th anniversary of that bombing raid is commemorated in the Basque country.

The royal couple will also be beating the drum for British exports. The Prince will address a seminar of the British Invisible Exports Committee in Madrid and, accompanied by his wife, will watch a fashion show staged by the British Knitwear and Clothing Export Council.

British visible exports to Spain last year approached £2,000 million, a 20 per cent increase over 1985, and placed the balance of trade firmly in the United Kingdom's favour.

British performance so far this year has been less good, with a £43 million trade deficit in January. With the removal of tariff barriers on Spain's full accession to the European Community, British exports of cars, grain and animal feeds have done particularly well.

An improvement in Anglo-Spanish diplomatic relations has provided a suitably warm climate for the royal visit. It is the first time the couple have visited the mainland, although they have been private guests of King Juan Carlos at his summer residence in Majorca.

The royal couple will steer well clear of Spain's current domestic politics. They will

take no part in the Guernica events.

Security will be extremely tight, however, because of the threat of Basque terrorist action. The royal couple plan to remain in Spain over the weekend for a private visit to friends.

The Prince and Princess, known affectionately here as Carlos V Diana, are already familiar to the Spanish through a host of weekly romantic magazines which recycle much British royal tabloid journalism. The greatest worry has been whether a mythical bad back would prevent the Princess of Wales dancing the flamenco.

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£1m a year earnings on the horizon for top private directors

By Robin Young

The earnings of some directors of private companies are coming close to £1 million a year, according to a survey of the 2,000 fastest growing private companies published today.

High in the running to be first past the £1 million mark are the five directors of EWM Investments, a family-run Scottish textile company based in Langholm, Dumfries and Galloway, whose total pay in 1985 was £3,918,000 — an average of £783,600 each.

Mr David Stephens, company chairman, was trying yesterday to improve his fortunes still further, on an outing to Wetherby races.

EWM Investments, which increased profits by 55 per cent in 1985, to £2,829,000, supplies management services for its textile subsidiaries, Drove Weaving and Woolly Mills. The directors' emoluments, increased from an average of £612,200 each the previous year, were the highest in Britain's private companies according to the Growth Companies Register.

The register is regarded as a pointer to private companies which are likely to become candidates for Stock Exchange listing.

Mr Roy Assersohn, a former city editor of the *Daily Express*, who launched the register three years ago, said yesterday that he knew of at least two insurance brokers who were receiving up to £600,000 this year.

Several fast growing private companies show average payments to directors over £300,000 each. In some cases payments have doubled on the previous year, and in one case multiplied sixfold.

In 1984, according to the register, the four directors of LHW Holdings, a firm of commodity and futures brokers, were paid emoluments totalling £196,000, averaging £49,000 per director. In 1985 the total was £1,254,000 to four directors, averaging £313,500 each.

The report also shows that Norwich City, the First Division football club, is also at the top of the growth league. In 1985, the latest trading year, Norwich achieved an 875 per cent growth in pre-tax profits from £171,000 to £1,668,000, though sales rose by less than 10 per cent.

The register shows, though, that the seven directors of Norwich paid themselves nothing.

Mr Assersohn, said that more than half the top 1,000 growth companies are medium-sized businesses with pre-tax profits of between £100,000 and £500,000 a year, with 215 showing profits of more than £500,000.

He said Inland Revenue statistics show that there are about 600,000 active trading companies in Britain, but less than half make taxable profits, and only 16,000 make pre-tax profits over £50,000.

The fastest rate of profit growth was produced by the 14 footwear, leather, clothing and household goods manufacturers, with an average growth of 268 per cent.

They were followed by 15 property companies showing 195 per cent average profit growth, and 14 instrument engineering companies with 186 per cent improvement.

In fifth fastest growing position was ICE Group, London-based consultants in the transfer of international technology, exhibition organizers and promoters. Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, former Labour Prime Minister, is among its six listed directors who received a total of just £8,000 in emoluments in 1985 when pre-tax profits soared from £122,000 to £1,017,000.



Mr David Broomfield, of the Longfield Carriage Company, Kent, and his daughter, Sarah, drive a hearse, pulled by Princess and Rowina, in the 102nd London Harness Horse Parade in Regent's Park yesterday. (Photograph: Mark Pepper)

Efficiency could hurt says BMA

By Robert Matthews

The standard of National Health Service care could suffer if the Government introduces ways of measuring the efficiency of treatment in hospitals, the British Medical Association said yesterday.

Last November Mr Anthony Newton, Minister for Health, launched a pilot scheme in which the efficiency of six hospitals is being measured using a technique developed in the United States.

Typical factors in the treatment of 460 different conditions, such as duration of hospitalization, are established by using diagnosis related groups (DRGs).

The supporters of DRGs claim this enables efficiency to be tightened by identifying "excessively long" courses of treatment in hospitals.

The BMA is concerned that the system would impel doctors to get patients out of their hospitals as quickly as possible, to avoid being branded inefficient.

This could lead to a rise in readmissions, especially in more deprived areas of the country, where patients would return prematurely to relatively poor housing.

In an interview on Radio 4's *The World at One* yesterday, Mr Newton denied that the efficiency scheme would lead to divisive competition in health care between hospitals, forcing doctors to limit the extent of care. He said that for every 1 per cent in efficiency gained, about £70 million could be released for more treatment.

Mr Michael Meacher, Opposition spokesman on health, also expressed his concern about the effect DRGs could have on the health service. He said the system is "wholly inapplicable" to chronic conditions which together account for most beds in the NHS, and that it does not work where illnesses are not clear cut or where cross-infections occur and new infections set in.

The real problem for the NHS is not that it is inefficient, but that it is underfunded.

NHS resources

By Ruth Gledhill

No funds for care of elderly

When Dr Alastair Noble started out in practice 12 years ago, fewer than 1 per cent of his patients were over 85. Today that number has more than doubled.

Dr Noble and his partners, who operate from a small clinic in the Highlands of Scotland, are stretched to capacity by a flood of geriatric, senile and mentally ill patients being turned out of hospitals under the Government's "care in the community" policy, he said yesterday.

Already three private nursing homes have opened to take them in and another is due to open shortly.

"It is like having a geriatric ward landed on your doorstep," Dr Noble said. "In hospital, these people are cared for by an expensive team of doctors led by a consultant. In the community, we do effectively the same work for a £10-per-head payment from the NHS."

Dr Noble and doctors' leaders are appealing to Sir Roy Griffiths, Mrs Thatcher's special adviser on health, for more money to avert a crisis in GP health care.

The doctors are not criticizing the policy, under which thousands of former long-stay hospital patients who cannot live fully independent lives have been moved out into the community. But they claim that the way the policy has been implemented, without extra funds for community services such as meals on wheels, has stretched the GP service almost to breaking point.

Dr Noble and his six partners at their clinic in Nairn, Highland, have seen nearly 200 more elderly and mentally ill patients come on to their combined list of about 10,000 patients since the community care policy took effect.

He said a typical example of a new patient coming on to the list was an 88-year-old woman with arthritis and senile dementia. "They are ten-a-penny. There is nowhere else that you will get 100 patients averaging 85 landing on your doorstep. We have known our own elderly patients in Nairn for most of their lives. These new patients come from all over the Highlands."

"It is the old, old story of trying to find more time to do all the work and of stretching yourself in all directions."

Dr Arnold Elliott, senior partner in a practice in Ilford, Essex, is secretary of his Local Medical Committee. "People are being shoved into these private homes because there is nowhere else for them to go. This area is the third worst in the country for provision of community support such as home helps, district nurses and social workers."

"We are in favour of care in the community but we need the resources to cope. People are being discharged from hospital with no proper arrangements being made to look after them."

"I had to write to a specialist in charge of an 86-year-old lady in hospital to tell him that under no circumstances should he send her back to her own home. She could not even walk across a room in a house on her own. This kind of thing is a weekly occurrence."

He said the answer was to make radical changes in the method of public funding of care in the community.

Hospital admits blunder over baby

A hospital admitted yesterday that identification procedures were not carried out on a baby girl before she was anaesthetized for a hernia operation she did not need.

Miss Kath Connor, administrator for Hull Royal Infirmary, said that all procedures in the hospital were being re-emphasized and strictly adhered to.

The parents of Laura Greenwood, aged five months, are considering legal action against the hospital, which has apologized to them in writing.

The father, Mr Darren Greenwood, aged 20, had snatched her away from staff as she was being taken into an operating theatre.

Mr Greenwood, of De Grey Street, Hull, said yesterday: "Nothing actually happened to Laura, but that doesn't alter the fact... Something terrible could very easily have happened to her."

He had protested that a mistake was being made when Laura, who had been taken to hospital for an eye test, was anaesthetized shortly after being fed.

"That was when the nurse said: 'Her name is Rachel isn't it?'" Mr Greenwood said. "At first they tried to insist that it must be a typing error. I couldn't believe it."

The hospital administrator said that Hull Health Authority laid down four identity checks before surgery.

The first was on the ward, where the patient's identity bracelet, date of birth and hospital identity number were checked against a theatre list.

In Laura's case this was not done because she was not wearing an identity bracelet. Miss Connor could not explain why the child had not been given a bracelet, but said she did not know of any similar mistakes.

The second check came when the site of the operation was marked indelibly on the patient's body and a theatre card was prepared.

The next check was in the theatre transfer area, where ward staff hand the patient over to the care of theatre staff and the patient's identification is examined.

The final check was by the anaesthetist's staff, who compared identification information with theatre lists.

Lake girl's last day mystery

By Our Crime Reporter

Detectives investigating the death of Shani Warren, the secretary, whose bound body was found floating in a lake at Taplow, Buckinghamshire, were yesterday trying to piece together her last day alive.

Miss Warren, aged 26, was last seen at 6pm on Good Friday but she was not found until early next morning. Her parked car was near by.

Det Supt Antony Miller, of Thames Valley police, said that he still did not know whether he was dealing with a murder inquiry or a bizarre suicide. It was possible for Miss Warren to have bound and gagged and drowned herself.

He said the dead woman had been depressed from time to time in recent years, but Miss Warren's brother, Stephen, discounted the idea of suicide. "She had so much going and so many plans", he said.

Miss Warren, who lived in Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, was found face down in about three feet of water. A post mortem examination showed no signs of injury from a struggle or rough handling nor was there any sign of sexual assault.

Detectives hunting the killer of two Leicestershire schoolgirls, Dawn Ashworth and Lynda Mann, have completed genetic "fingerprinting" of more than 3,500 men living in the area where the girls were murdered. So far, the tests have eliminated 2,200 men from their inquiries.

The tests enable individual genetic characteristics to be identified from blood and saliva samples.

Stand-in ferry safety criticized

By a Staff Reporter

Safety precautions on a ferry being used by Townsend Thoresen as a replacement for the *Herald of Free Enterprise* were yesterday strongly criticized by a former Royal Navy officer.

Mr Charles Gidley Wheeler, aged 48, who served with the Department of Naval Equipment in the 1970s checking seamanship arrangements on naval vessels under construction, said he was appalled by what he saw on board the MV *Vortigern* during a crossing in thick fog from Boulogne to Dover.

Mr Wheeler said: "The crew must know the basics, and two of its members did not know where the life rafts were."

Speaking on BBC radio's *The World at One* he said he had asked a member of the ship's engine room crew, and then the purser, where the life rafts were after seeing only 15 on board.

He said that when he was eventually shown the rest of the 43 life rafts they were in unmarked boxes.

Mr Wheeler called for better communications, suggesting that there should be a public address announcement at the start of each voyage detailing emergency procedures.

He said: "It would be very simple to provide every passenger with a slip of paper on arrival telling him simply where his emergency station is and how to find it."

"I was shocked that there was so little attention paid to safety", he said.

Mr Wheeler said he was also concerned that life rafts were lowered by davits rather than by a quick-release mechanism. "There should be legislation to bring the [safety] rules up to date", he added.

The ship was old and its general condition was "disgraceful", he said.

Townsend Thoresen declined to comment on Mr Wheeler's criticisms, but a spokesman said the *Vortigern* had been chartered for two months from Sealink after the Zeebrugge disaster.

The Department of Transport said last night that responsibility for a ship's safety lay with the person who asked for its certificate of safety to be issued, and with the ship's master.

Sealink confirmed it had applied for the *Vortigern's* certificate of safety and it had been granted. A spokesman added: "That means the ship is safe."

Stable girl found dead

The battered body of Miss Leanne Scott, aged 17, a stable girl from Cambridgeshire who went missing a week ago, was found by police yesterday in a derelict farm building near her home (Our Crime Reporter writes).

As a Home Office pathologist carried out a post mortem examination, detectives were questioning a man, aged 27,

who was arrested at the weekend in Guildford, Surrey. The man was held at a roadblock after a chase.

Miss Scott's body was found early yesterday near Conington, between Huntingdon and Peterborough. Miss Scott, who worked at her parents' stables in Sawtry, vanished after celebrating her birthday with a friend at a public house.

Wildlife campaign

Bumble bee is under threat

By Michael McCarthy

An awareness campaign will be launched today on behalf of a truly deserving persecuted minority: bees.

The London Wildlife Trust hopes to catch the public's interest in the growing threat to the British bumble bee — from herbicides, pesticides and modern intensive farming methods — with a campaign called *Bee Spree* which it is launching at the Natural History Museum in Kensington, south-west London.

The aim is to encourage people to record sightings of bumble bees during the summer months, and to provide new habitats for them to live and feed in wherever possible. *Bee Spree* is part of a nationwide research project on the decline of bees in the countryside being co-ordinated by Dr Sally Corbett, a biologist at Cambridge university.

Dr Harry Riches, president of the British Beekeepers' Association, who is supporting the campaign, said yesterday: "The threat to the bumble bee should be a matter of concern for us all, because if we are losing bees, we must be losing many other insects as well."

"Increasingly their food plants are being killed off by modern herbicides, and the bees themselves killed by pesticides. You only have to look at a typical cornfield; once it would have been full of thistles and poppies, but now there is none. Such plants may be weeds to farmers, but they are vital food plants for bees."

"Bees are extremely important in the ecology because of their pollination of flowers and plants and their decline could very quickly become critical."

Trust tries to save ancient farm

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Dorset Trust for Nature Conservation is to launch an appeal to save part of a unique estate which has largely survived the twentieth century agricultural revolution, but which is about to be broken up.

The Lower Kingcombe estate, north-west of Dorchester, was until recently unknown to all but a few locals, and was untouched by progress. Mr Arthur Wallbridge, its owner, rejected modern farming methods and, as a result,



Where this bee sips is at a foxglove.

the landscape remains much as it had in earlier centuries. It has high hedges and sunken lanes, hay meadows and rare flowers. It is a haunt for fallow, roe and sika deer and a refuge for butterflies, sparrowhawks and buzzards.

It was "discovered" with great delight two years ago by the Nature Conservancy Council, which promptly took steps to have about half the estate declared a site of special scientific interest.

But last year Mr Wallbridge died, aged 94, without leaving a will. The land had to be sold to pay estate duties.

A consortium of conservationists was formed to raise the money to buy it, but it was acquired instead by Mr John Masters, a London solicitor.

It is now due to be auctioned in 15 lots in Dorchester next month.

The trust says it has no hope of acquiring all 600 acres.

Scheme to save wild flowers

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

An unlikely-sounding partnership has been formed by the British Agrochemicals Association, the Game Conservancy and the Nature Conservancy Council to develop ways of conserving wild flowers on arable farmland.

The scheme is the result of the Cereals and Gamebirds Research Project, established by the Game Conservancy to reduce spraying on headlands — the edges of fields — in order to provide better habitats for gamebirds, and partridges in particular.

About 500 farmers are taking part, using fungicides and herbicides to eliminate pernicious grass and broad-leaved weeds, but avoiding the use of insecticides.

As a result, at least a dozen species of wild flower have reappeared after many years, including the crimson pheasant's eye, considered to be virtually extinct.

Mr Hugh Oliver-Bell, the project's chairman, suggests that intensive farming has not eradicated certain species but has merely suppressed them. Reduced use of pesticides will allow them to re-establish themselves.

The BAA is to provide £41,000 over three years to finance postgraduate research at Southampton University as part of its contribution to the European Year of the Environment inaugurated last month.

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Controls on the City not tight enough says TUC

By Tim Jones

The TUC has demanded much tighter controls on the City of London and on Lloyd's to prevent insider trading and criminal dealings.

The TUC's committee for financial services, which has recently reviewed the operation of Companies, Securities (Insider Dealing) Act 1985, maintains the existing law has major weaknesses.

It notes that in the six years since insider trading was made an offence, 110 cases have been referred to the Department of Trade and Industry, but only nine people — "small fish" — have been prosecuted.

Meanwhile, the TUC says, surveys of share price movements have shown unexplained and marked changes some weeks before takeover moves, indicating that insider trading could well be rife.

According to the committee, the most serious obstacles confronting the United Kingdom's investigations into fraud are the bank accounts and companies which are based overseas.

The committee says: "Since 1980, about 50 investigations by the Stock Exchange or the DTI have ground to a halt when they turned up nominee accounts in foreign banks where the account holder is not named, or foreign based companies whose real ownership is never disclosed."

The British Government

has failed to exert pressure at its disposal, it says, unlike the United States which has concluded bilateral information agreements with other countries to lift the veil on nominee companies and bank accounts.

"Many insider dealings on the London Stock Exchange are carried out through the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, which ought to be vulnerable to UK pressure but little has been done."

The TUC maintains that the resources available to the DTI to conduct investigations are too limited, as are resources available to the self-regulatory arrangements which govern the City.

The committee also calls for the London insurance market, Lloyd's of London, to be brought into the scope of the Financial Services Act.

"The aim is to improve investment protection for its members, as unlike most other financial institutions, Lloyd's is free from external supervision."

The committee says:

"Lloyd's has been the centre of some major financial frauds, and even though it was reformed by the Lloyd's Act 1982 and will enact further changes as a result of the recent inquiry by Sir Patrick

Neil, the major gap is still the absence of external supervisory authority."

Girl's 50p may help to save a Constable

By Gavin Bell
Arts Correspondent

A young girl may just have saved a Constable masterpiece, "The Opening of Waterloo Bridge", for the nation.

A few hours before the deadline expired last night for raising £3 million to acquire the painting, Lucy Alesbury, aged four, popped 50p into a collection box at the Tate Gallery.

She did so, she said with the assurance of a connoisseur, because she considered it to be "a lovely picture".

Lucy's father, Alma, a barrister from Guildford in Surrey, agreed: "It would be nice to think it will still be here in a few years' time, when she may appreciate it better."

The large oil painting has been offered to the Tate at a tax-reduced price by the trustees of Mrs A J Sheldon, who inherited it through the Massey Ferguson family.

Before the Easter holiday weekend, the gallery said it required £470,000 to prevent it from being sent to auction, and almost certain sale abroad.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund has pledged to match public donations up to £500,000, and the outcome will be announced today.

Mrs Sheldon is anxious that the painting should go to the



Lucy Alesbury, aged four, puts her 50p pocket money into the Constable appeal (Photograph: Stephen Markeson).

Tate, and the deadline may be extended if necessary.

Last-minute contributions yesterday included one that could have almost bought the painting outright when it was first sold in 1838.

Mr Hirochimi Khoshita, a Japanese businessman and art collector, added a 10,000 yen

(£43) note to one of the appeal boxes. A further £20 would have matched the price it fetched in a studio sale shortly after the artist's death. Its present market value is estimated at £4.5 million.

The Japanese connoisseur, who owns several Spanish Old Masters was critical of the

£22.5 million recently paid by a Japanese insurance company for Van Gogh's "Sunflowers". "That was a crazy price. This Constable is a far more beautiful painting."

Constable's great-grandsons, John and Richard Constable, both professional painters, said it would be a

tragedy if the masterpiece went overseas.

Another last minute donor, Mr Anthony Blackmore, a security officer, said: "We've had the best artists in the world. It grieves me when their work disappears to other countries. It's our children who will miss out."

Apartheid boycott hits flower show

By Gavin Bell

The Chelsea Flower Show has become entangled in politics, with Glasgow District Council calling for a national boycott of the event next month.

The Labour-controlled council has banned its parks department from exhibiting, after learning that the South African government will have flowers on display, and has asked other local authorities to follow suit.

Glasgow's parks department is a regular exhibitor. Mr John Young, a Conservative councillor, has said the protest action is ridiculous. "You are saying that flowers grown in Scotland cannot sit on a bench beside flowers grown in South Africa. How loony can things become in this city?" he asked.

The boycott is also opposed by a committee organizing the National Garden Festival in Glasgow next year. The committee will have a stand at Chelsea promoting the £30 million event.

Mr Keith Fraser, director of the Glasgow Parks Department, said he was disappointed by the decision. "I think we've always put on a good show. We have won several gold medals in the past, and were looking forward to another good display this year."

Pornography and the law: 2

Election threat to tougher measures

MPs meet next week to discuss amendments to the chaotic obscenity laws. They have the backing of the Prime Minister but not necessarily enough parliamentary time to achieve their aims. Tony Dawe reports on the police operation and the contradictory court judgements which brought pressure for change.

Soon after taking charge of Scotland Yard's Obscene Publications Squad, Supt Ian Donaldson decided to hit pornographers hard and get a clear cut ruling from the courts on what was acceptable in the late 1980s.

But his hopes were dashed when magistrates in three London courts all reached different decisions about the same material. This meant that most of the million items seized during the meticulously planned "Operation Sweetheart" had to be returned.

At the first hearing, the magistrate at Old Street court decided that none of the material seized from Calaga Press, cutters and binders of pornographic magazines, was obscene. He said that he had seen a lot worse in many ordinary shops; he ordered the police to carry out the humiliating task of returning all the material.

Even worse was to follow when lay magistrates at Newham studied the items seized from the east London premises of Quietlunn, which, with an annual turnover of several million pounds, is one of the country's biggest publishers of pornography.

They agreed that some of the material was obscene but interpreted a Court of Appeal ruling by Lord Justice Wat-

kins in 1984 to mean that if they thought the majority of the items before them were not obscene they should return everything.

Some lawyers and the police said this interpretation was wrong, but the ruling was made and the police were ordered to return 500,000 items worth £2 million.

Only at the Highbury Corner court hearing, as reported yesterday, did the magistrate decide to order confiscation of most of the items before him, which had been seized from the Bradmore Press.

The Newham decision, together with other unsuccessful prosecutions at Camberwell and Croydon, made Mr Gerald Howarth, Conservative MP for Cannock and Burntwood, determined to reform the Act.

"These court decisions emphasize the chaos surrounding the law at the moment", he told *The Times*.

His Bill, which begins its committee stage in the House of Commons next week, could, however, run out of parliamentary time.

Mr Donaldson supports the Bill but he doubts whether it will help matters greatly. "We face an uphill battle trying to convince magistrates that material before them is offensive when they have seen far worse openly on display", he said.

Concluded

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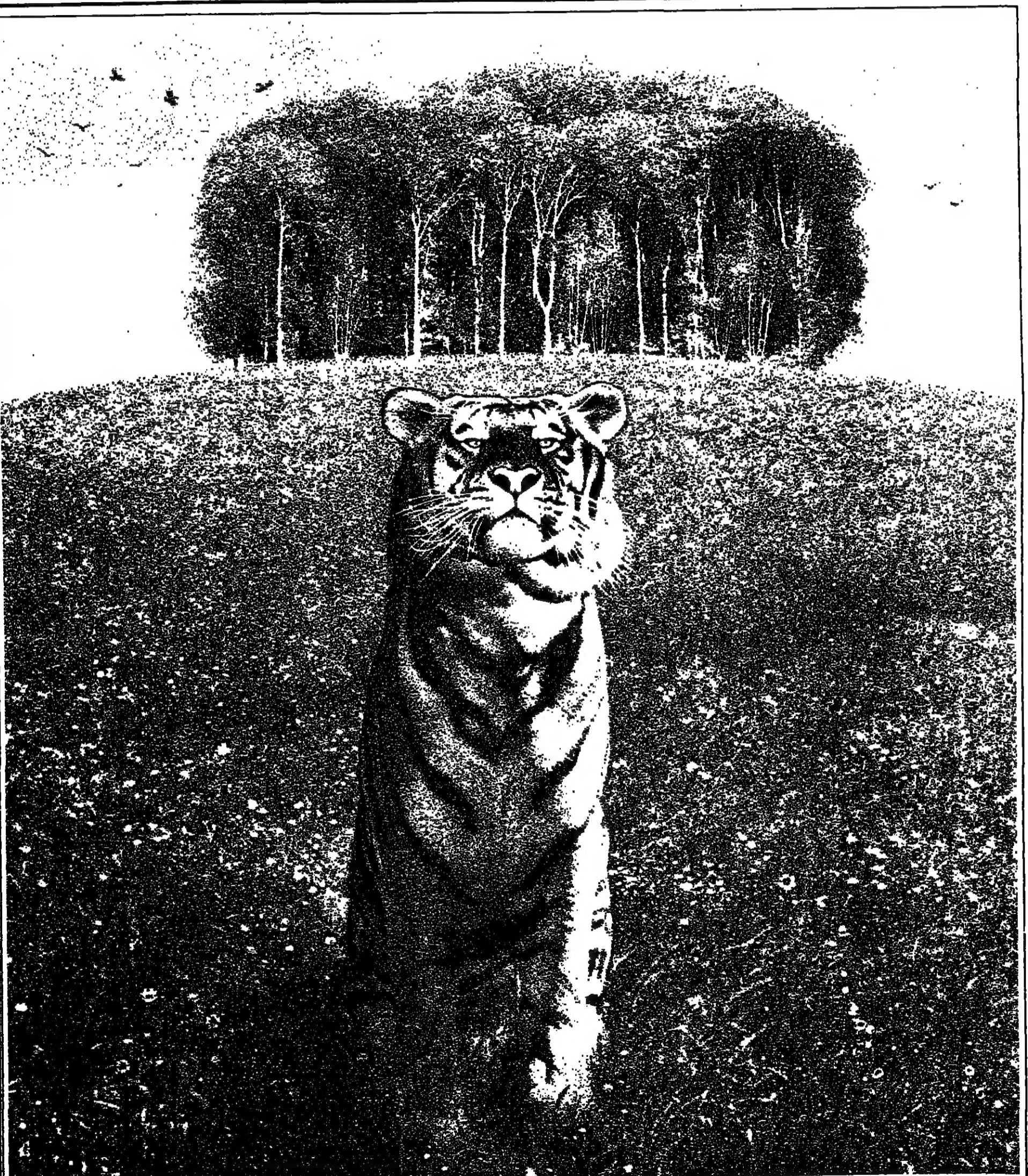
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On guard.

The stance we're taking is to generate interest in Britain's ancient woodlands, because they're under threat.

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The coppice.

Woodland thrived in medieval times, but since 1945 10% of the remaining 500,000 ha. of ancient woodland has been cut down.

The Nature Conservancy Council believes that destruction for any purpose must now stop, and our ancient woods should be properly managed. Indeed, the NCC has gone so far as to list all ancient woods, county by county, to provide a national inventory.

In support, Esso has joined with the NCC to launch the Ancient Woodlands Project.

Our sponsorship is enabling the NCC to produce a series of illustrated regional books designed to encourage interest in local woodlands — describing their history, uses and wildlife, with lists of woods to visit.

A further national volume will incorporate a management handbook for professional foresters and weekend conservationists alike. Guidance will be given on what should and should not be done with ancient woods.

You may like to know that the NCC's inventory has already been accepted as part of the Forestry Commission's Broadleaves Policy. Good news, indeed.

In this European Year of the Environment, however, we urge you to be 'on guard'.



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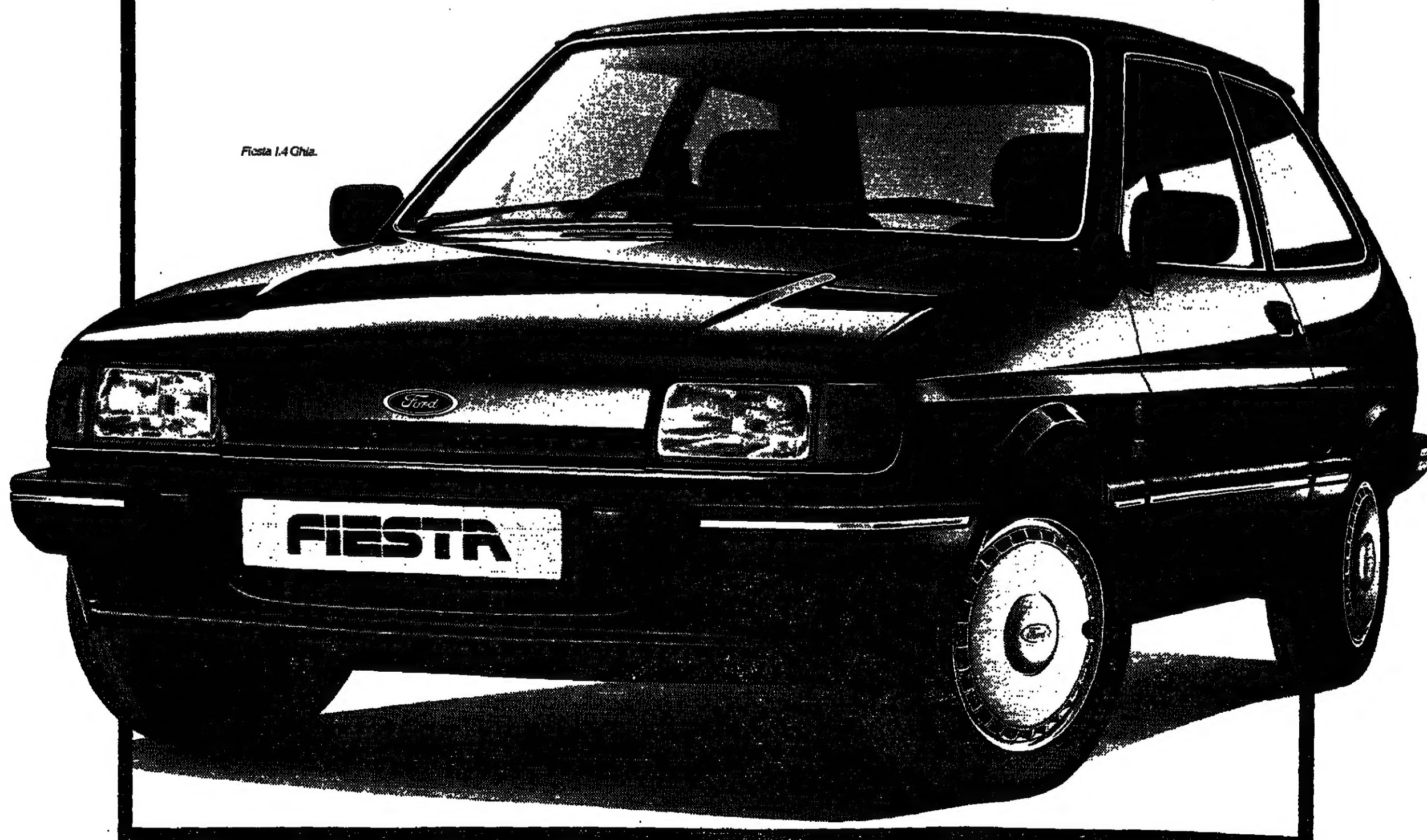
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WORLD SUMMARY

Call to print top Soviet debate

Moscow (Reuter) — *Pravda*, the Communist Party daily, yesterday published a letter calling for the publication in full of the proceedings of the Central Committee, the party's policy-making body.

The *Pravda* reader, an assistant professor in Moscow, said people had taken a strong interest in the Central Committee meetings of April 1985 and January this year, so "why not publish stenographic records of the plenums, as is done with party congresses?"

The press and publishing industry generally issue only the two main speeches, made by the party leader, and the final resolution adopted by the committee, making it difficult for the Soviet people to find direct evidence of the flow of debate.

Nuclear shutdown

Paris — The nuclear power plant at Fessenheim in the Haut-Rhin department will be shut for at least five days after Sunday's escape of non-radioactive steam from a faulty valve (Susan MacDonald writes).

The incident was the third in three weeks.

M. Thierry Bonnet, head of the Fessenheim plant, said tests on areas surrounding the plant had proved that the escaping steam had not been radioactive.

Aids campaign panic

Sydney — A television campaign designed to shake Australians out of their complacency about Aids has been so effective that it may be abandoned (Stephen Taylor writes). According to Professor David Pennington, chairman of the Aids Task Force, the use of a grim reaper figure has panicked large numbers of people who were at no risk of infection to seek medical advice and tests. About 10 times as many people as normal took blood tests at one Melbourne hospital, and the campaign had gone too far.

Few argue against the need for more general understanding of Aids in Australia, which has a higher incidence than anywhere else in the Western world outside the US.

Tambo in Japan

Tokyo (Reuter) — Mr Oliver Tambo, the African National Congress leader, said yesterday he had asked Japan to cut all trade links with South Africa. He said he had told the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the main purpose of his visit here was "to urge and persuade the government of this country to take a decision to impose comprehensive sanctions on South Africa".

Ferries hit by strike

Madrid (Reuter) — Thousands of ferry passengers travelling between Spain and its holiday islands were stranded yesterday as pay strikes resumed after Easter.

A spokesman for Transmediterranea ferry company said its staff staged its second 24-hour strike in less than a week, affecting up to 8,000 passengers. The Communist-led Workers' Commission put the figure at 25,000.

Transmediterranea said many crossings between the Spanish mainland and the Balearic and Canary Islands were cancelled and mandatory skeleton services were running late.

Walesa's story

Warsaw (AP) — Mr Lech Walesa, right, said yesterday he had completed his autobiography and offered it to an independent Polish Roman Catholic publishing house, but expected it would probably appear first in the West because of state censorship in Poland.

NZ judge resigns

Wellington (AP) — A New Zealand judge resigned yesterday after it was disclosed that a drunken driving charge against him was dropped when he produced a medical certificate suggesting he was suicidal.

Auckland District Court Judge Brian Holmes Blackwood, aged 68, said it was now inappropriate for him to sit on the bench. The Justice Minister ordered an investigation into why officials decided not to prosecute.

China in dialogue

Moscow (Reuter) — The Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, and Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Qian Qichen, expressed differing views yesterday on the Indochina conflict and other regional issues. "Despite the difference in the understanding of international problems and ways to settle them, both sides affirmed they consider the Soviet-Chinese dialogue useful."

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Reconciliation tops Alfonsín agenda

Argentine armed forces still look strong

From Eduardo Cui Buenos Aires

The end of the military crisis that shook Argentina over the Easter weekend may, ironically, bolster the armed forces' position and lead to further restrictions on the human rights trials that precipitated the four-day episode.

While political observers here agree that President Raúl Alfonsín has emerged a national hero, with the country's fragile democratic institutions strengthened, the military's demands have been met at least in part. Indeed, the President said in announcing the end of the crisis that the rebels never intended to spark

a coup but rather wanted to force a political solution to a problem within the military.

It is now clear that the Argentine military were simply not going to attack their own men. General Ernesto Alais, the commander of the troops who surrounded the military academy where the rebels were holding out, concluded sometime on Saturday that his men would not obey orders to attack the base.

Similarly, Brigadier General Ernesto Crespo, the air force commander, made it plain from the start of the crisis he would not go against the rebel army officers.

Faced with this situation,

President Alfonsín risked all and did the only thing he could, travelling to the Campo de Mayo base in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief to order the men's surrender.

Despite the claims that no negotiations took place, the Government immediately met one of the rebels' major conditions by removing General Hector Rios Echea as Army Chief of Staff. He is likely to be replaced by General Augusto Vidal, among the names suggested by the insurgents.

Perhaps more significantly, the crisis has spurred the entire Argentine political class to seek a solution to the thorny

problem of the human rights trials, another demand consistently repeated by Lieutenant-Colonel Aldo Rico, the rebel leader.

While the Government was moving in this direction before the crisis, it now seems likely that the Supreme Court will issue a decision on the concept of due obedience — that is, how far responsibility passes down the chain of command for obeying illegal orders. A likely outcome is that the number of lower and middle-ranking officers who can be prosecuted will be limited.

That had been the objective of the controversial "final point" law, which had a 60-day statute of limitations on prosecutions. But the effort backfired by setting into motion the wheels of the cumbersome Argentine justice system and summoning more than 200 military officers to appear before the courts.

Not only could middle-ranking officers not accept the prosecution of their comrades, the situation led to a loss of confidence within the military in their leaders and to demands that General Echea be replaced.

The one major demand that the Government categorically rejected was the call for an amnesty for military person-

nel who took part in the "dirty war" against terrorism in which more than 10,000 people disappeared.

The military, for their part, have not emerged unscathed from the confrontation. The massive rallies in support of the young democracy not only gave the Government the only real power it had during the crisis but showed just how alienated the armed forces had become from the rest of Argentine society.

This is perhaps the most serious challenge now facing the Government. Argentines have shown they are ready to fight for their hard-won democracy.

The one major demand that the Government categorically rejected was the call for an amnesty for military person-

Reagan presses Europe for quick response to Soviet offer

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan is determined to be ready within a few weeks to respond to the Soviet Union's proposals for elimination of medium and short-range missiles from Europe.

He returned to the White House from his California ranch yesterday to prepare for an urgent briefing of congressional leaders in the Oval Office on the possible American reply to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's proposals.

Nato's high level group, which handles military modernization issues, began meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, yesterday with arms control at the top of the agenda. A session of Nato's special consultative group has been scheduled next week in Washington, after which the North Atlantic Council will again take up the issue in Brussels.

The critical question of shorter-range weapons is dominating consideration of the latest Soviet arms proposals. US officials are looking at the possibility of upgrading and modernizing its substantial armoury of battlefield nuclear weapons in Western Europe following the expected super-

power accord for medium-range missile reductions.

The Reagan Administration believes such a move would reassure the allies of continued American commitment to the defence of Europe and demonstrate that the US, which has 4,600 nuclear warheads for battlefield missiles in Western Europe, is not pushing for the complete de-nuclearization of Europe.

Mr Kenneth Adelman, head of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, said a possible response would be for both sides to retain a small number of shorter-range missiles or missile launchers. The number should be between zero and 80. "I wouldn't go any higher myself than what the Soviets have already offered," he added.

General Bernard Rogers, Nato's Supreme Commander, said in a *Newsweek* magazine interview that the Soviet proposal to eliminate medium and short range missiles would leave Western Europe vulnerable to Soviet conventional forces. "You have to have nuclear weapons in there some place," he added.

Linnas plea fails

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The US Supreme Court voted yesterday, by a 6-3 majority, to refuse to grant a stay of deportation to Karl Linnas, an accused Nazi concentration camp commandant, who faces the death penalty in the Soviet Union.

Linnas, aged 67, is accused of taking part in wartime atrocities and mass murders as commander of a death camp in Tartu, Estonia, where 12,000 people were killed during World War II.

The Justice Department said the Supreme Court action meant that Linnas would be eligible to be deported to the Soviet Union, the only country willing to accept him.

Linnas, a native of Estonia, was stripped of US citizenship in 1981 for lying about his Nazi past to immigration officials in 1951 and again when he was naturalized in 1960.

The Justice Department said last Wednesday that the US intended to send Linnas to Panama instead of the Soviet Union, but Panama later that day denied his request for asylum.

The department earlier this month was preparing to put Linnas on an aircraft to the Soviet Union but gave him a chance to find another country. More than 12 countries have turned him down.

Rebels who seized power 20 years ago



Stylanos Pattakos: dismal existence aggravated by old age and poor health. George Papadopoulos: proclaimed leader of new far-right party. Nikos Makarezos: sentenced to death for treason, now serving a life sentence.

Greece recalls colonels' coup

From Mario Modiano Athens

As Greece remembers, sadly, the 20th anniversary of the colonels' coup of April 21, 1967, the army revolt in Argentina came as a timely reminder that the threat of a military dictatorship, however remote, cannot be totally expunged.

"It is not enough to say we oppose dictatorship," thundered the state-run Athens radio yesterday. "We must be ready to avert it, ready to defend democracy, and never tolerate conditions that would breed new aspiring dictators."

The Greek political parties issued statements yesterday to mark the sinister occasion and pledge to protect democracy; newspapers printed page-long accounts with the background of the seven-year-long military rule and its lessons; and Greek television showed film from the dreary everyday scenes of oppression, torture and humiliation to which Greeks were subjected. A new generation of Greeks has grown up since the coup and Greek leaders fear that they may not have learned enough about it.

Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Socialist Prime Minister, was among the first to congratulate President Alfonsín of Argentina.

"I wish to express the solidarity of the Greek people, who were also tried severely by a brutal dictatorship," he said in a telegram praising the president's masterful handling of the crisis.

However, many Greeks feel the Argentine could have drawn some useful lessons from the manner in which Greece dealt with the aftermath of the dictatorship and the subsequent need for retribution.

Today, 13 years after the fall of the military dictatorship under the sheer weight of its own incompetence, 11 of the 18 coup leaders are still in jail.

The three principals, Colonel George Papadopoulos, aged 73, Brigadier Stylianos Pattakos, aged 79, and Colonel Nikos Makarezos, aged 73, were sentenced to death for revolt and high treason in 1975, but their sentences were commuted to life imprisonment.

The National Unity government was then strongly criticized for showing leniency, but

it argued that it opposed the death penalty and would not, therefore, "tolerate extremism and barbarism".

Mr Constantine Karamanlis, the then Prime Minister, however, reassured the Greeks: "When I say life imprisonment, I really mean life." At the same time the Government obtained a Supreme Court decision whereby, except for specific crimes, such as the torture of political prisoners, all those who had collaborated with the junta as ministers or officials would not be prosecuted.

Of the 18 army officers originally sentenced, three have been released after serving their terms. Two died in jail and General Odysseus Angelis, aged 75, who served briefly as Vice-President under Mr Papadopoulos in 1973, hanged himself with an electrical wire tied to his cell's toilet tank on March 22. He was frail and practically blind.

Pressure for the release of the remaining coup leaders has come mainly from a far-right political party, the National Political Union (Epen) which has proclaimed Colonel Papadopoulos its leader.

The party polled 37,000 votes — less than one percent — in the 1985 elections, although it obtained four times that number in the European elections.

A call for the release of the jailed officers came unexpectedly from Mr Alexandros Lykourazos, a prominent criminal lawyer who in 1974 initiated proceedings that led to the trial of the coup leaders.

In an open letter published last January he argued that their conviction had been an act of expediency which had been inevitable because passions were running high at the time. But now he was challenging the legality of their condemnation on retroactive legislation.

Mr Lykourazos wrote: "I believe that whatever the political or legal basis of their behaviour, their 12 years of incarceration should be enough punishment."

The Government reacted vigorously to reject the lawyer's plea and to restate that it had no intention of setting free the men who, 20 years ago, seized power and set the clock of democracy in Greece back for seven years.

Pretoria guard on railways

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Troops and police were deployed yesterday at railway installations as the South African authorities prepared for a showdown today with 18,000 striking black railmen.

The Bureau for Information reported that during the last 24 hours a passenger coach and engine coach had been set ablaze at Kempton Park near Johannesburg.

More than 60 coaches have been destroyed or badly damaged in a week of arson attacks on rolling stock. Mr Kobus Nel, a spokesman for the state-owned South African Transport Services, said the damage ran to more than 25 million rand (£8 million).

Sats has linked the wave of arson directly with the six-

week-old strike by the black South African Railway and Harbour Workers' Union recognized by the government.

Although Dr Bart Groves, Sats general manager, maintains that he has kept his door open throughout the dispute, he has made it clear he will deal only with the in-house Black Trade Union.

Mr Eli Louw, the Minister of Transport, made it clear at the Easter weekend that the strikers would not be paid for the time they have been off work.

The minister, though he did not expect any of the strikers to be dismissed during the weekend, warned that "from Tuesday (today) I can't guarantee anything".

Meanwhile, the issue that

sparked the strike — the alleged unfair dismissal of a driver over a suspected 40 rand (£12.80) cash irregularity — has become insignificant.

The main issue now is Sats refusal to recognize Sathwa, a Boesak defiant in defiance of a government ban on calls for the release of detainees. Dr Allan Boesak, the head of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches and patron of the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front (UDF), has organized the printing and distribution of car bumper stickers and posters quoting Hebrews 13:3: "Remember those who are in prison as if you are with them and those who are being tortured as if you share their body".

Isaiah military sources are convinced that the successful Palestinian operation to infiltrate northern Galilee on Sunday was carried out for propaganda effect to coincide with the start of the Palestine National Council meeting which opened yesterday in Algiers and which was called by Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization chairman.

Fatih, the military wing of the PLO, claimed responsibility for planning the raid, in which three heavily armed men succeeded in getting into Israel and killing two Israeli soldiers in an ambush before being killed themselves.

Israelis accuse Arafat over Galilee raid

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

According to military sources, the three were carrying leaflets which showed they were planning to take hostages in border towns, possibly Kiryat, Shemona or Kibbutz Menara. If successful, the hostage taken would have given maximum propaganda benefit to Mr Arafat in his struggle to take over supreme control of a unified Palestinian movement.

The mere fact that the three managed to get into Israel itself is no mean achievement and indicates a high level of planning. The border is protected in depth. Any infiltrator needs first to cross the so-called "security zone".

Fanfani on brink of defeat

From Roger Boyes Rome

The Italian Parliament met last night to decide the fate of the Government of Signor Amintore Fanfani and looked set to plunge the country into early elections.

Parliament was called into a special Easter Monday session to resolve the six-week-old political crisis. Signor Fanfani, the leader of the Senate, was called on to produce an "institutional government", which theoretically would be free of party squabbling.

The line-up, already presented to President Francesco Cossiga, consisted of Christian Democrats with the exception of a handful of non-political technocrats. Prominent politicians from other

parties, such as Signor Giovanni Spadolini who was asked to be deputy premier, refused to take part.

The best known ministers in the Fanfani Government were Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Foreign Minister, and Signor Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, the Interior Minister.

Signor Fanfani presented his Government's programme last night, but the full debate and vote will probably not take place until today. It seems likely, though not 100 per cent certain, that Parliament will reject his government and the President will call early elections. But some politicians who oppose the improvised government may nevertheless vote for it because they want a referendum this June on nuclear power. If

elections are called the referendum would be cancelled.

The country seems to have already entered a pre-election phase, with some extraordinary political bickering.

In a rare attack, Signor Bettino Craxi, the leader of the Socialist Party, who although he has resigned is in the odd position of technically being Premier until Signor Fanfani is confirmed in office, rounded on President Cossiga, saying: "The President of the Republic must appoint governments which govern and not governments which are designed to provoke the dissolution of Parliament."

If elections are called, Signor Fanfani's Government will stay in place to administer them.

Brussels View

Shultz and Nato share European arms dilemma

Richard Owen Brussels

A weary Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, underlined while here last week Nato's pressing dilemma over Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's latest offer to abolish all short-range as well as intermediate-range nuclear weapons in Europe.

"What do we have to do in return," Mr Shultz asked after his briefing with the Nato European allies. We all waited to take down the answer, but Mr Shultz did not have one, and neither did the European foreign ministers.

Washington wants a quick arms deal, but has to reassure Europe that it will not damage Nato's doctrine of flexible nuclear response by removing "several rungs of the ladder", as Hans van den Broek, the Dutch Foreign Minister, put it.

One way out might be a deal that leaves intact short-range missiles with a range of under 300 miles. But the Europeans still fear any solution which leaves Europe vulnerable to Moscow's overwhelming edge in conventional and chemical weapons. Bonn is particularly worried, since West Germany is in the Nato front line.

The need for a consensus within weeks is partly dictated by the crowded arms control timetable. INF talks resume in Geneva on Thursday and next Monday EEC foreign ministers meet in Luxembourg. Seven will meet simultaneously with the newly revived Western European Union, or WEU, which many hope will become the focus of a new European defence effort in case the US reduces its military commitment to Europe.

The American presidential campaign gives Mr Reagan a

motive for an arms deal, just as domestic economic pressures on Mr Gorbachev partly lie behind his radical arms proposals. Both sides need an agreement badly.

But who is to decide what kind of arms deal suits Europe, as opposed to the superpowers? The idea that the EEC has a defence role has not so far taken off, partly because of Irish objections.

Ireland is to hold a referendum in June on whether revised Treaty of Rome provisions on foreign and security matters infringe Irish neutrality.

In a key Brussels speech on March 16 Sir Geoffrey Howe called for the WEU to be reinvigorated as the European pillar of the Western alliance, because "Europe no longer dominates American thinking". Rather oddly, Sir Geoffrey will not attend the Luxembourg meeting (he has press-

ing engagements in Australia). British officials insist that the WEU session will nonetheless be "very important".

One proposal is to expand the WEU to include Spain, Portugal, Greece and Turkey. But the West's problem, as one Nato official said, is that Moscow can move at the pace of one man while Nato has to move at the pace of 16.

Enlarging the WEU, or expanding its role, would overcome the problem of France's partial participation in Nato: France takes a full part in the WEU, whose headquarters are in Paris and London. But more bureaucracy and consultation machinery could slow the West down, making it look even more flat-footed in comparison to Mr Gorbachev.

According to one Brussels think-tank, Nato will not survive in its present form be-

yond the year 2000, and a European defence effort must therefore be devised, perhaps built around the British and French nuclear forces.

The Europeans will certainly have to find some way of formulating their common view in a new era of disarmament, provided such a body strengthens rather than weakens the Atlantic alliance.

A European defence pact, some diplomats believe, need not lead to the "de-coupling" of Europe from America which Moscow is after — and which it tried to pursue recently by inviting a WEU delegation to Moscow. On the contrary, having to respond to Mr Gorbachev could end up uniting Europe and reinforcing Western security.

But the Europeans must be prepared to pay the price of looking after their own defence.

M. Jean-Louis Giral, the President of the National Federation of Public Works, has written to the Minister of Culture, M. François Léotard, to propose the launching of a national *Save Our Arc de Triomphe* subscription to pay for the restoration work needed on the famous Paris landmark.

For the past two years, a vast metallic net has had to be hung around the arch to prevent stones and loose masonry falling on tourists and important personalities visiting the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier beneath.

It is thought that pieces have been falling off the monument because of pollution and vibrations from the Métro which runs underneath.

M. Giral has said that the last month that the participation of approximately 5,000 businesses belonging to his organization would not be

involved in repair work as this is not their speciality. Rather, the idea is to raise French funds to repair a French monument, following an announcement that the American Express company was willing to put up the funds needed. The thought of foreign money being used has caused considerable controversy in the French press.

The cost of saving the crumbling, 10,000-ton, 95-foot edifice has been estimated at anything up to 30 million francs (over £3 million), and the Ministry of Culture jumped at an offer last September from American Express to contribute.

Other foreign companies, most of them American, have since expressed a similar interest. M. Léotard said in Lille last month that the participation of American capital in the restoration of the Arc de

Triomphe would be "an illustration of the friendship between France and the US."

However, the fiercely patriotic French do not all approve of the idea of foreign capital being used to save such a symbol of French national might. The two leading right-wing dailies, *Figaro* and the *Quotidien*, see the whole affair as "a question of national dignity", and have demanded that only French money be used.

The Ministry of Culture has replied that the Arc de Triomphe, although intended by Napoleon to celebrate purely French victories, has since come to symbolize French military success at the side of its allies. Dollar contributions to its repair therefore would be quite acceptable, it suggested, although Deutschmarks or yen would not.

Sri Lanka slaughter continues

Civilians' massacre brings toll to 150

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

Tamil separatist rebels yesterday killed another 15 civilians as part of an Easter weekend spate of random slaughter which has brought the death toll to nearly 150.

The 15 who died yesterday were killed in an attack on a Sinhalese settlement in the North Central Province at Jayantipura, close to the tourist centre of Polonnaruwa. The deaths followed a Good Friday massacre of travellers on a main road not far away in which 129 people were said to have died.

Yesterday's mortar attack death of a police inspector in charge of a police station at Odduchudan in the Mullativu district further north added to the weekend toll.

"They have clearly taken a decision to kill Sinhalese civilians," the Minister for National Security, Mr Lalith Athulathudali, said yesterday. "They are saying 'We cannot confront the military directly'."

The Government is convinced that the killers are a squad of guerrillas from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the largest of the groups fighting to establish a separate Tamil state in the north and east of the island.

The country's security

chiefs spent several hours in conference yesterday at the palace of President Jayawardene, planning a series of retaliatory strikes.

The Government needs a dramatic counterblow to head off a possible Sinhalese backlash against innocent Tamils living in the southern part of the country and military chiefs have been given the green light for a major operation, which could begin within the next few days.

"Drama is more important than the actual effect," one observer close to the Defence Ministry said.

President Jayawardene went out of his way at the weekend to warn the Sinhalese community against any kind of independent retaliatory action, reminding them of the damage done to Sri Lanka by the events of July 1983, when more than 2,000 Tamils were killed in a campaign of terror that was sparked by the deaths of 13 soldiers.

His remarks have caused some disapproving comment among Sinhalese hardliners, particularly since he also warned that people stirring up that kind of intercommunal trouble would face the death penalty.

On Good Friday as many as 31 servicemen (including two

policemen) were among the killed. They were mostly navy personnel returning to the port of Trincomalee from leave.

Security forces are coming under increasing pressure to seize Jaffna town, which has been under the virtually uncontrolled control of the Tamil rebels for the past two years. It seems unlikely that they will yield to the pressure however, since such an assault would inevitably involve a large number of civilian casualties, and the strategic value of holding the town is very small.

The weekend killings have nonetheless been a severe reversal for the security forces' overall strategy. They had been claiming that the Trincomalee area was to all intents and purposes free of the terrorist threat. Sinhalese refugees, who had been driven out by previous attacks on settlements in the area, were planning to return this week.

Fishermen, under the direction of 35 mudalalis, large scale boat owners, had returned to the area from Negombo and Matara to resume their former activities.

"This has been a setback," Mr Athulathudali said. "They have demonstrated an unexpected visibility in the area."

Last chance to avert strike

From John England, Bonn

West Germany will face the threat of a national strike by metal workers if last-chance talks between trade union leaders and employers today fail to resolve a bitter dispute over pay and hours.

The talks between the powerful IG Metall trade union and Gesamtmetall, the employers' association, will end an Easter truce after a fruitless meeting last week.

The union, with 2.5 million members, the world's largest single-industry labour organization, is demanding a 5 per cent wage increase, an immediate reduction of 90 minutes in the working week and a promise of one-hour cuts each in 1988 and 1989. The employers have offered a 2.7 per

cent pay rise and a 30-minute cut in hours from July 1988.

Herr Franz Steinkühler, aged 49, IG Metall's thrusting new chairman, has warned that if the employers do not table a "suitable" new offer today they will face a strike that will be tougher than the regional industrial action that paralysed the motor industry for seven weeks in 1984. That strike, over the introduction of a 35-hour week, won the metal workers a cut from 40 hours to 38.8 hours, which the union claims created 100,000 jobs.

The union's new demand has been reinforced during the last few weeks by rolling "warning strikes" throughout the country involving stop-work action lasting up to two hours.

The employers have angered trade union leaders by asking an arbitration court to rule whether the actions are legal.

Another long strike by metal workers, which would again hit the crucial motor industry hard, would also be a blow to West German economic growth, which has slowed after signs of good recovery last year. IG Metall, however, may not have sufficient strike funds to support a repeat performance of 1984.

Since then Chancellor Kohl's centre-right government has brought in a law which bans payments of unemployment benefit to workers laid off due to strikes by workers in the same industry in other regions.



Philippe Monnet, the 28-year-old yachtsman from Savoy, France, arriving in Brest on board his trimaran Kriker, in which he sailed around the world with only one stop, setting a new record, covering 27,000 miles in 129 days 19hr 17.8min.

The annual haul of US thugs

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

An average of 1.2 million people were robbed annually in the United States from 1973 to 1984, according to a Justice Department survey.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics, which studied the 14.7 million robberies reported in the 12-year period, said that one-third of the victims were injured. Two-thirds of the people lost property or money, and nearly a quarter lost both. About one in 12 robbery victims suffered serious injuries such as knife or gunshot wounds, had bones broken, or were raped. Fifty-three per cent of victims were "attacked" — shot, knifed, hit, grabbed or held.

The study defined a robbery as a situation when a victim is confronted by one or more offenders who demand money or property.

About half of all successful robberies involved losses of \$82 (about £51) or less, with an average loss of \$447. Only 10 per cent of thefts involved losses of \$800 or more, and only 5 per cent of the money was ever recovered.

Most of the incidents took place at night and on the street. Twelve per cent of the incidents occurred in homes.

When 'eye contact' betrays the merchants of marijuana

US Customs and Immigration officials are not only looking out for illegal Mexican immigrants who arrive at the world's busiest border point hidden in special compartments of cars and trucks. There is also an increasing flow of drug smugglers, as Michael Ennos reports.

The man showed all the symptoms. Overt calmness, a throbbing Adam's apple, "super benevolent". He said: "Sure, be my guest. I got nothing to hide. Search the car." Jo Garcia, aged 28, a US customs inspector, opened the boot. The man, in his early twenties, American, began to bite a thumbnail, gripping his wrist with his other hand to stop it shaking. He was evasive about his trip to Mexico.

You could smell it as soon as the lid came up. Marijuana. "OK," said Mr Garcia. "You come with me." The man looked dumbfounded. "How can you tell?" he asked. "I don't have time for that right now," Mr Garcia replied.

Fifty packets of marijuana were hidden in three false compartments — about 100 lbs, with a street value of up to \$100,000 (£62,000). Other customs inspectors, guns in holsters, gathered round. "Hey, Jo, what you got? Wow, look at that stuff!"

The morning was looking up for the customs and im-

migration men at the busiest port of entry in the world, the border checkpoint between Tijuana, Mexico, and San Diego, California.

Mr Jim Johnson, the area port director for immigration, said: "We get 35 million people through here every year, 10 million cars, 1,800 cars an hour, six million

pick-up trucks and motor-campers.

Mr John Rashid, the customs inspector at the first checkpoint, got out his scan mirror to look underneath. "I'm too old to go bending," he said. He saw there was a "depth perception". The flooring was too high. Mr Rashid sent the driver on to Mr Garcia in the secondary inspection area.

They took the car apart with hammers and crowbars. The three drugs compartments were in the boot, the back seat and the front floor, passenger side, hidden under newly riveted flooring. "This guy got greedy," said Mr Garcia.

On conviction, the American could get four to five years in a state penitentiary.

Last week they stopped a boy, aged 14, on a bicycle. Cocaine was stuffed in the handlebars. Simply no one can be trusted.

Immigration officials last year seized drugs worth \$2.5 million at the San Diego border checkpoint alone. Customs took about the same. And that was in between stopping Mexican babies being taken through for sale to childless couples in America and turning back 47,000 immigrants arriving with false papers and fake "green card" work permits.

The stereo was on loud. The driver, itching to move on, had waited half an hour in a traffic queue stretching back into Tijuana: 12 lanes of cars,

Concluded

Basques riot after music festival

Guernica (Reuters) — Dozens of people were hurt when riots broke out in the Basque town of Guernica yesterday after a music festival to mark the 50th anniversary of the town's bombing by the Germans during the Spanish Civil War.

The autonomous Basque Government said one person was seriously injured and seven, including four policemen, were taken to hospital. Organisers and medical sources said 50 more were given first-aid.

The riots started when a squad of the Basque autonomous police who stopped a bar brawl was pelted with glasses and bottles.

Rail deaths

Ouagadougou (Reuters) — The death toll in an Easter weekend rail crash in the West African state of Burkina Faso has risen to 18, with 90 injured, 20 of them seriously.

Suicide leap

Seoul (Reuters) — Mr Park Ken-suk, 58-year-old chairman of the South Korean firm, Pan Ocean Shipping, killed himself by jumping from an office window yesterday, apparently because of an internal feud over the management of his hugely indebted company.

Milk check

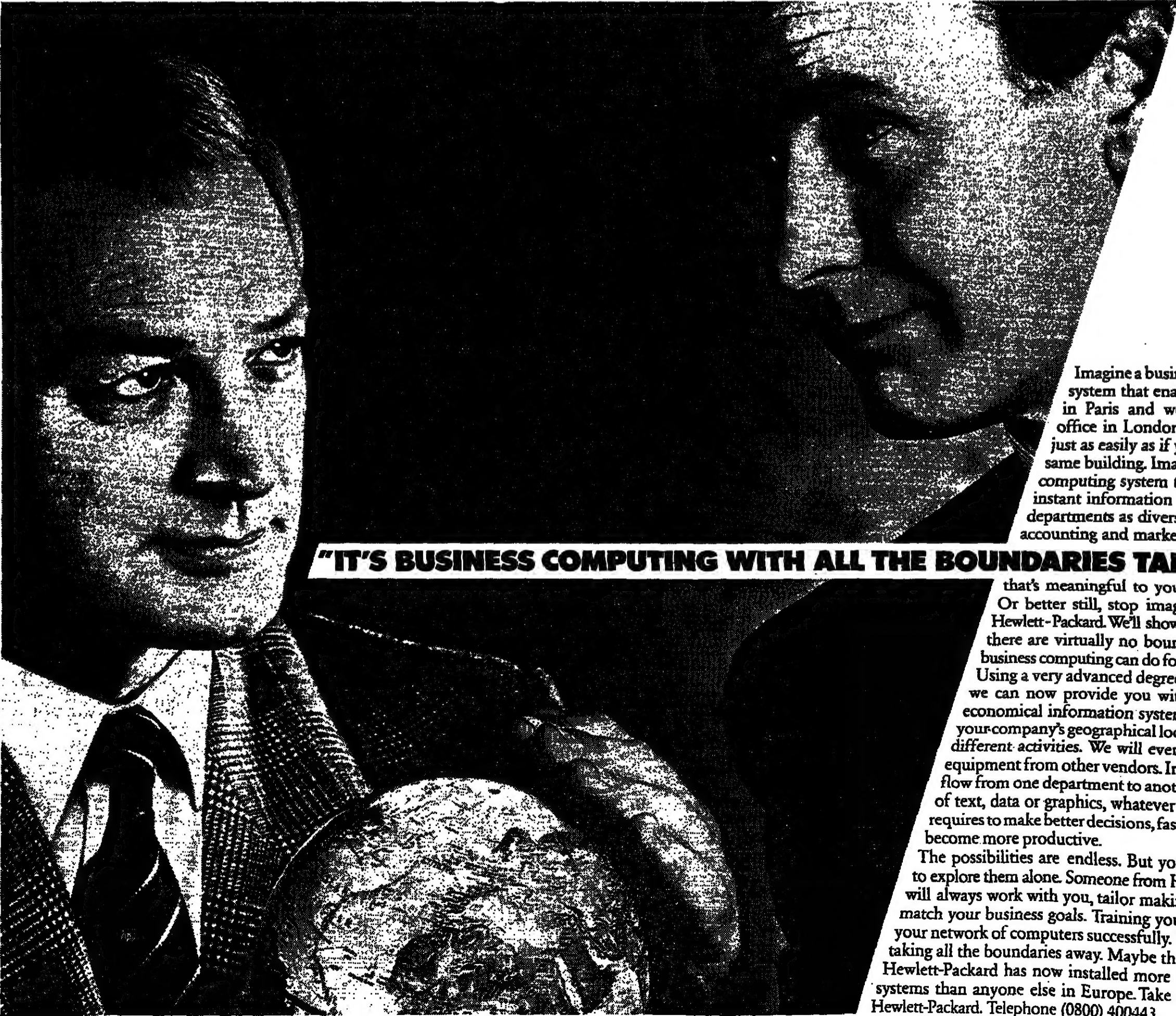
Dhaka (Reuters) — Experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency are to check powdered milk from Poland that Bangladesh claims contains harmful levels of radioactivity.

Saudi links

Jeddah (AFP) — A new telecommunications centre linking with four international satellites has begun operating in Saudi Arabia, providing access to international telephone and telex circuits and news and other TV channels.

Bunny robber

Manchester, Ohio (AP) — A man dressed in an all-white Easter Bunny suit and carrying a paper bag produced a gun at a general store here, ordered the woman at the counter to hand over \$655, all she had in the till, and escaped on foot.



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Rajiv refutes repeated charges of bribery in Swedish arms deal

Delhi (Reuters) — Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, his image as "Mr Clean" tarnished by newspaper allegations of payoffs in defence deals, told a stormy session of Parliament yesterday he had been assured no such payments had been made in relation to artillery purchases from a Swedish company.

Opposition members in the Lower House hurled charges of bribery and payoffs amid strong protests from members of the ruling Congress Party. Mr Gandhi said: "You show us any evidence of corruption or payoff or bribery and we will take action and we will see that nobody, however high up, is allowed to go free." The allegations, first made by a Swedish radio station, were widely reported by Indian newspapers. The charges are linked to a \$1.3 billion (£800,000 million) contract India signed with the Swedish company, Bofors, for artillery. We have been assured by the Swedish Government and the company that there have been no payoffs. We can't wait everyone with a brush without even knowing what

colour we are painting," he said.

A Congress Party spokesman said on Saturday that unfriendly countries were making persistent efforts to prevent India from securing improved technology.

Mr Somnath Chatterjee of a retired Sikh lieutenant-colonel from Amritsar has been arrested on suspicion of spying for Sikh separatists in Punjab (AP reports from Delhi).

Police arrested Lt-Col Narinder Singh Chadha after raiding his home, where they found maps showing deployment of the Indian army in northern and western border area.

They also recovered portable telephone equipment with US Army markings and arms and ammunition.

The Communist Party of India said: "It is a bid by the Government to divert the attention of the country from the issues involved by making all sorts of loud noises about destabilization."

"It is a matter of serious

concern that one after another serious charges of corruption are being made against the Government," he said.

But Mr Haru Bhui Mehta, a Congress Party MP, said: "All this is a part of a great conspiracy emanating from the West."

Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, India's best-known corruption fighter, resigned last week as Defence Minister after ordering investigations into newspaper allegations of \$23 million payoff involving the purchase of submarines from West Germany in 1981.

The resignation embarrassed the government. Mr Singh had been severely criticized by his colleagues for probing illegal deals.

Mr Gandhi said he had discussed the deal with the late Prime Minister, Mr Olof Palme, and had insisted there should be no middlemen.

"I got confirmation from Mr Palme that those conditions were complied with," he said.

The Opposition, hopelessly outnumbered in the Lower House, forced a debate on the defence deals.

Deng urges end to border dispute

From Robert Gries, Peking

India should be settled reasonably, called yesterday for a reasonable settlement of the border disputes between China and India yesterday.

He told the General Secretary of the Indian Communist Party, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, that China had settled all its border issues except those with the Soviet Union and India. China's territorial disagreements with

India should be settled reasonably, called yesterday for a reasonable settlement of the border disputes between China and India yesterday.

He told the General Secretary of the Indian Communist Party, Mr E.M.S. Namboodiripad, that China had settled all its border issues except those with the Soviet Union and India. China's territorial disagreements with

China claims 34,000 square miles of the remote Arunachal Pradesh region of northeast India and occupies 14,500 square miles of what India

claims to be Kashmir. The disputes flared into a border war in 1962.

Since 1981 the two sides have had seven rounds of largely fruitless negotiations.

Last week the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said India had "confounded black and white" in accusing China of occupying a section of Arunachal Pradesh last year.

Suharto party poised for poll victory

From Our Correspondent Jakarta

After a 25-day election campaign that saw frustrations vented over corruption, business monopolies and lack of political freedom at universities, Indonesians this week settled into a five-day "cooling off" period before the country's quinquennial general elections on Thursday.

Street campaign banners have been torn down, party emblems washed off walls, and the national press forbidden to publish anything that could affect the outcome.

The polls, in which 94 million voters of the world's fifth most populous country will vote for 400 elected parliamentary seats, are widely expected to result in the easy return of the ruling Golkar Party. It has dominated Parliament since President Suharto took power after an abortive communist coup attempt 20 years ago.

Golkar has said it wants 70 per cent of the elective parliamentary seats. Few doubt it will reach its target — especially in the rural areas which account for the bulk of the electorate — despite a massive popular turnout for the small Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) in the streets of Jakarta last Friday.

Indonesian and foreign observers predict that the PDI, which polled only 7.9 per cent of the popular vote in 1982, will outstrip the Muslim United Development Party (PPP). But they say that Golkar's grip on the country is too strong to result in a PDI victory, despite persistent and widely believed rumors that Indonesia's powerful military has been quietly supporting the Democrats.

If the PDI does make a mark, commentators say, it is likely to be in the capital, the most volatile and critical electorate in the country, which accounts for some four million voters. Jakarta is where the



Mr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, Indonesia's Foreign Minister, campaigning on East Timor for the ruling Golkar Party before this week's cooling-off period leading up to the election.

Suharto Government looks for victory as a tacit stamp of approval on the President's stolid programme of stability and development.

The Muslim PPP, which narrowly took the capital in 1977, has suffered a series of setbacks, including leadership squabbles and the defection three years ago of a major Islamic faction that has freed its members from political allegiance to the party.

Golkar in its turn has hoisted its own moderate Muslim banner, calling on adherents who, statistically, comprise 90 per cent of Indonesia's 168 million-strong population, to rally to its cause.

"My religion is Islam, my vote is Golkar" read banners

strung over crossroads throughout the country during the campaign period — in sharp contrast with publicity for the PDI, which is a forced merger of Catholic and Protestant parties with the once-powerful Nationalist Party of former President Sukarno, who proclaimed Indonesia's independence from the Dutch in 1945.

PDI banners and speakers proclaim "merdeka" (freedom) and are emblazoned with the portrait of the charismatic former president who, although dead 17 years, has captured the imagination of 12 million first-time voters.

Mr Slamet Bratanata, a disenchanted former Suharto minister, said of last Friday's massive turnout for the

PDI: "People are showing what they think of the system. But what happens in the polls will be different." For he and his fellow dissidents say the polls are meaningless, since they cannot change the power structure.

However, they point to a new mood among Jakarta voters at least and statements by Mr Ismail Saleh, the Justice Minister, who, speaking as a Golkar member, said his party would push new laws through Parliament curbing monopolies, many owned by President Suharto's associates.

Were the new Parliament, which also includes 100 appointees drawn from the military, to introduce legislation, it would be the first in 15 years.

He said the armed forces had not been given credit for facing external threats or assisting civil administration to meet law and order problems in the past two years.

Troops in to control Karachi violence

From Zahid Hussain Karachi

Troops moved into riot-affected areas of Karachi yesterday as violence spread to other parts of the city. At least five people were reported killed and more than 50 have been injured since Sunday, lifting the death toll to 10 during two days of ethnic clashes.

Disturbances continued throughout Sunday night and yesterday morning in Shah Faisal colony, Liaquatabad, and north Karachi. Arson and looting were reported from north Karachi, where violence erupted on Saturday night after an attack by armed Pathans.

The worst clashes took place on Sunday night in Shah Faisal, where gangs attacked houses and shops, resulting in three dead and scores of injured.

In Liaquatabad, a predominantly Urdu speaking Mohajir district, a crowd erected barricades, obstructed traffic and set fire to many vehicles.

Ethnic clashes have also spread to Hyderabad, 100 miles from Karachi, where a hotel owner was burned to death. Violence erupted in the city on Sunday night after news of attacks on Mohajir areas in north Karachi.

ISLAMABAD: President Zia has strongly rebuffed the country's civilian leadership for failing to recognize the armed forces' role in "voluntarily" surrendering military rule (Hasan Akhtar writes).

He said the armed forces had not been given credit for facing external threats or assisting civil administration to meet law and order problems in the past two years.

Law Report April 21 1987

Ban on inserts

Mail Newspapers plc v Insert Media Ltd and Others
Express Newspapers plc v Mr C. J. Arnold & Another

Before Mr Justice Roch (Judgment March 27)

The court having granted interlocutory injunctions restraining the defendants, Insert Media Ltd, Hampstead Distribution and Mr C. J. Arnold, from inserting or causing or procuring to be inserted advertising leaflets and other printed material in copies of the Daily Mail, Mail on Sunday, You, Daily Express, Sunday Express and Sunday Express Magazine, the court would not vary the injunction to allow such material to be inserted with a disclaimer printed thereon that it did not appear with the approval of the newspaper publishers.

Mr Justice Roch so held in the Queen's Bench Division giving judgment in open court after a hearing in chambers, in refusing an application by Mr C. J. Arnold to vary interlocutory injunctions in respect of Mail action by Mr Justice Russell on December 12, 1985 and in respect of the Express action by Mr Justice French on February 2, 1986.

Mr Michael Briggs for Mr Arnold; Mr Andrew Caldecott for Express Newspapers; Mr Gavin Lightman, QC, Mr John P. Whitaker and Mr Thomas Sharpe for Mail Newspapers.

MR JUSTICE ROCH said Insert Media and Hampstead Distributors played no part in the present proceedings as according to the affidavit of Mr Arnold they had ceased trading.

The plaintiff newspapers received their revenue in part from the price paid for the newspapers and in part from advertisements placed in the newspapers. All the advertising was subject to careful scrutiny in order to maintain certain standards.

The newspapers only accepted advertisements from

agencies who conformed with the standards of the British Code of Advertising Practice and the Code of the Advertising Standards Association and the newspapers belonged to the Mail Order Protection Scheme (MOPS).

Since the grant of the injunctions, Mr Arnold was unable to pursue his business activities and was unemployed and in receipt of state benefits. His Lordship had to apply the principles enunciated by Lord Diplock in *American Cyanamid Co v Ethicon Ltd* (1975) AC 396 which established that the court must be satisfied the plaintiff's claim was not frivolous or vexatious; in other words that there was a serious issue to be tried. His Lordship found the plaintiffs had an arguable case that a cause of action existed to them, namely the tort of passing off.

The fact that Mr Arnold now offered to include disclaimers on all his leaflets to the effect that they did not appear with the approval or knowledge of the newspapers did not detract from the fact that the essence of the tort was that one person should not present goods as though they were the goods of another.

His Lordship found the balance of convenience lay in favour of the interlocutory injunctions remaining in force. If the plaintiffs were successful there would be difficulty in quantifying the loss suffered by them. Furthermore, it was unlikely the defendant could satisfy any money judgment.

On the other hand, there was no difficulty in quantifying the defendant's loss if he was successful. The status quo ante was preserved by the continuation of the injunctions. His Lordship therefore declined to vary the injunctions to allow Mr Arnold to re-commence his activities with the disclaimer printed on the leaflets.

Solicitors: Barton Yeates & Hart; Lovell White & King; Swepstone Walsh & Son.

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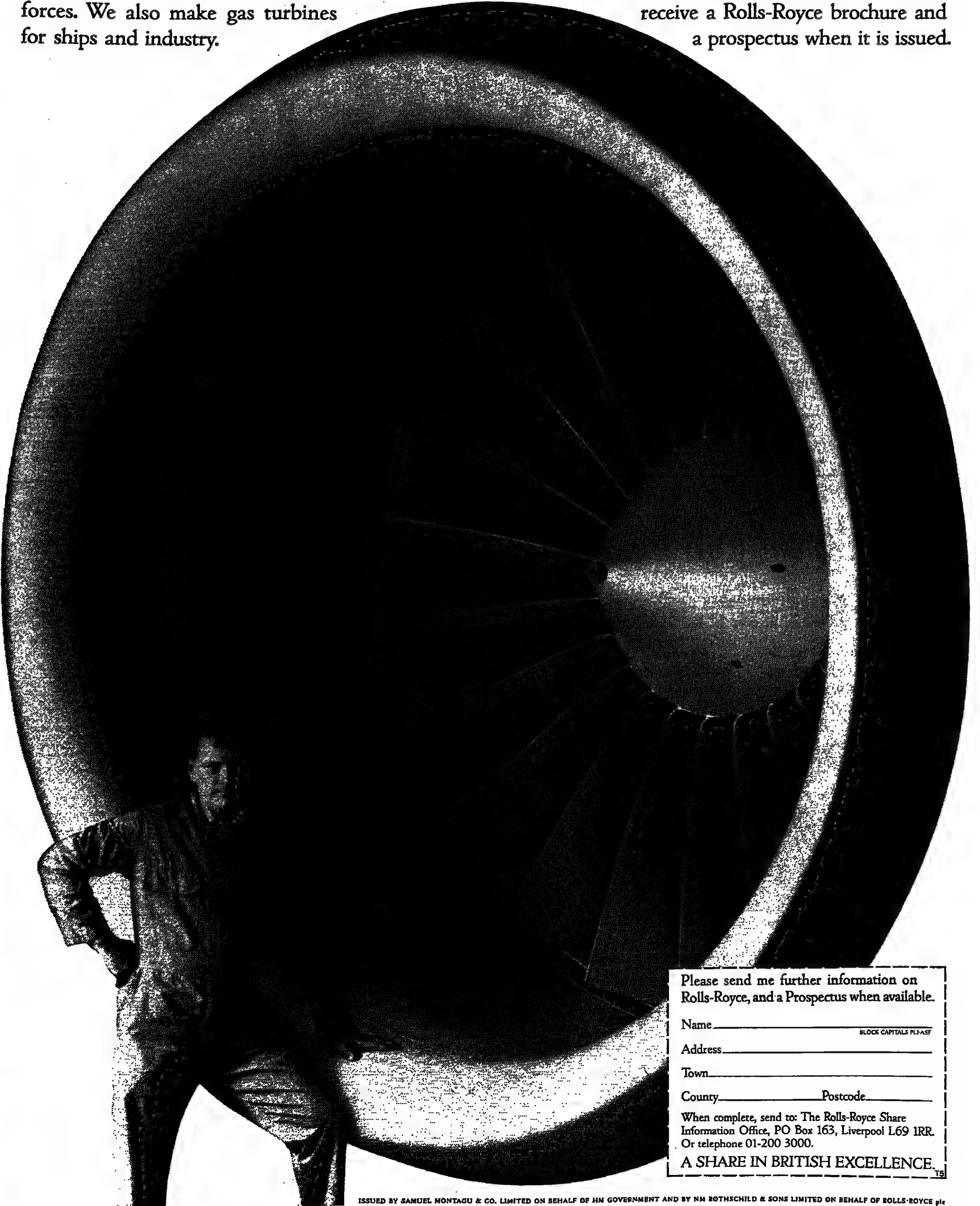
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Chernobyl — the clouded issues

In the first of two reports, Roger Boyes looks at the effects of the Chernobyl disaster on a small Polish town, one year on

Mikolajki, a sleepy community in the Polish lake district, woke up a year ago to find itself aglow with radioactive fall-out. On the fringes of town, the local meteorological station was humming and chattering like a debutante's ball: radiation was 500 times the normal background level.

Somewhere close by, there had been a nuclear explosion. The wind was from the east. Within a few hours the world had learned a new place name: Chernobyl.

When Chernobyl's No 4 reactor blew up on Saturday, April 26, the fall-out swept westwards and northwards, clipping north-east Poland (saturating hapless Mikolajki), moving up into Sweden and Finland and then folding back towards northern Russia. Then new winds forced the fall-out back into Poland and then ever westwards, over continental Europe towards Britain.

In Mikolajki there was initial confusion (when the news leaked from the local monitoring station) and then shock (when the authorities disclosed figures showing that Mikolajki was the worst affected town).

A year later, Chernobyl, stripped of the emotions of the moment, still prompts important questions about nuclear energy. What are the long-lasting medical and social effects for those who live within a few hours' drive of a major nuclear blast? How has the explosion influenced the overall attitude to nuclear power in the Soviet bloc?

Where better to ask these questions than in Mikolajki? The search begins with Professor Tadeusz Rzymkowski, a short, jaunty man who, as head of Poland's Central Laboratory for Radiological Protection, receives his dose of radiation on a regular basis without having to wait for power station failures. He offers tea and forgets the milk, but as we sit through his tables one is grateful for the omission.

Milk was the first nutritional casualty of Chernobyl. The presence of iodine 131 made it undrinkable. In Mikolajki, milk

contamination throughout the crisis was always at the top end of the national scale and usually well above recommended safety levels for children. Milk was tested, taken away for conversion into powdered milk and then stored until the iodine had died.

But the caesium 137 isotope with a half-life of 30 years — and linked with cancer — is still present in milk. And not just milk — Professor Rzymkowski runs his fingers down long tables of caesium contamination in beef, horse meat, pork, all the staple ingredients of sausage.

One should, of course, be reassured by the overwhelming number of products which fall well within safety categories as defined by the International Atomic Energy Authority, and the sometimes more rigorous standards set by the Poles. "Don't look only at the maximum radiation figures — that just distorts the picture," stresses the professor. "Now, a year after Chernobyl, we can say that the accumulated effect of the radiation is slightly less than the effects of atmospheric radiation in the 1960s, when the superpowers were testing nuclear weapons in the atmosphere."

There are no statistics linking the incidence of cancer with those nuclear leaks. But as a result of Chernobyl, Polish experts say that there will be an increase of a few per cent in the incidence of thyroid cancer over the next 30 years and there will be between 200 and 500 radiation-induced cancer deaths over the same period.

In Mikolajki, the most frighten-



The generation gap: it will be many years before the long-term effects of nuclear fall-out are known

ing aspect of the Chernobyl crisis was human complacency — exemplified by the speed with which the most elementary precautions were allowed to lapse. Farmers throughout Poland were ordered not to graze their cattle because one of the most devastating ways of passing on radiation is through milk produced by grass-fed cows. As one Mikolajki administrator, Wanda Piekarska, put it: "Of course, after a few days the farmers were running out of dry fodder and they stopped following the instructions. We could reprimand them, but there was really nothing that could be done."

It is difficult to separate ideology from Chernobyl. Those in Mikolajki who think that any statement on Chernobyl will be interpreted by the authorities as

anti-Soviet keep their mouths firmly shut: the Catholic parish priest for one, and a young bearded director of the local monitoring station.

Those who clearly do not have much love for communism are free with their views, but perhaps also with the facts. A doctor in the privacy of his surgery says: "Miscarriages and birth defects have increased in the past year. And the number of cancer cases — objective cases, not just people thinking that they have cancer symptoms — has gone up since Chernobyl."

But the Chernobyl link is difficult to establish. Fall-out is not the only cause of cancer. It is certainly true that for many months the inhabitants of much of the Mazurian lake district have been blaming their ailments on Chernobyl — the skin complaints, the respiratory diseases and giddiness. Stress may have played its part in provoking miscarriages. And in a strictly Catholic community women who had abortions may have camouflaged them as miscarriages.

One looks in vain for firm evidence of medical damage. Rumours of double-headed frogs in the forests are impossible to confirm, and the local vet says that an increase in the number of dying deer this year may have been caused by the hard winter. Private Geiger counter services have profited and three friends — a screen writer, a novelist and a cabaret singer — who have summer dachas in the nearby village of Krzyż, commissioned their own fall-out survey. The area was clean.

RUSSIA'S WOES

A year after the disaster, the Soviet authorities are still facing formidable medical, financial and logistical problems in coping with the contamination risk. While 930,000 people have so far been given special medical examinations, the bulk of the impressive relief effort has been concentrated on the 135,000 men, women and children evacuated from the 18 mile-wide exclusion zone around the stricken plant. Most of the evacuees are living in some 8,000 new homes — costing \$27,000 each — constructed in new settlements a safe distance from their former homes.

Typical of the new settlements is Zaryzhevka, where 810 families are now attempting to settle into a new life in a complex of three villages. "What we want to do most of all is to go back to our homes," said Anastasia Panasiwna, a 72-year-old grandmother, "but I realize that that may not be possible in my lifetime."

Ludmila Sdanevich, an assistant in the village's new food store, said she had to give a small blood sample every 10 days in order to monitor her condition. But she claimed to have suffered from no special illness since the disaster.

In addition to their new houses and accompanying plot of land, each family has been financially compensated. According to relief officials, the average payment to a middle-aged man with a wife and two children amounted to around \$25,000.

The authorities say that the psychological problems of the evacuees have been more difficult to cope with than their physical difficulties. Anatoly Romanenko, the Ukrainian health minister, said that continuing fear of "the invisible enemy, radiation" was one of the main difficulties. In an effort to cope with the symptoms — including recurrent nightmares — various techniques, including massage, hydro-massage and soothing music, were being experimented with.

According to Nikolai Lokenin, the man in charge of the new Soviet Ministry of Atomic Power Engineering, people will "soon" be moving back to 28 decontaminated communities. But no official figures have yet been provided on how many will be able to return.

Christopher Walker

TOMORROW

Confusion in the air: how Europe failed to cope with Chernobyl

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Sentenced to controversy

An outspoken judge is about to make his radical views known to a wider audience

No judge this century has been sacked for anything other than criminal behaviour. But Judge James Pickles has come perilously close to it: two years ago he wrote some newspaper articles, airing his views on the criminal justice system. He was threatened with dismissal by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, and sent to see the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane.

His offence was to speak out without seeking the Lord Chancellor's permission. In breach of the so-called Kilnair rules, after the Lord Chancellor of that name who drew them up. But far from shutting him up, Pickles's brush with his judicial superiors reinforced his view that the public has a right to know what judges do and think. "I am discreetly and responsibly pushing forward the frontiers of judicial availability to the public."

This week he pushes those frontiers forward yet further, with a book, *Straight from the Bench*, the first of its kind by a serving judge. In it he argues both for reforms to the criminal justice system and launches another attack on the judicial system, the way it operates, its secrecy, its old boy network, and above all its three "Cs": conservatism, complacency and conformity.

Judge Pickles is openly critical of some of his colleagues and of the Lord Chancellor himself, likening him to a "brooding quivotic dictator", who acts as prosecutor, judge and jury in the system for appointing and sacking judges, on the advice of a "praetorian guard" of civil servants.

Judge Pickles has already caused a few headaches in the Lord Chancellor's department. But he is not like most other judges. Down to earth and blunt, he clearly enjoys what he calls the "unstuff" company of those who work outside the legal profession.



James Pickles: "Telling the public what they want to know"

He likes writing and journalism and has had several radio plays broadcast under the pen name of James Fairfax.

His views have thrust him into the eager arms of the media. When Pickles saw Lord Lane after his newspaper articles in 1985, he undertook not to air his views in future through the media, but to contact the Lord Chief Justice. Several letters later, Pickles became frustrated at the lack of action and withdrew his undertaking. He then published a further newspaper article in February 1986, outlining the attempt to silence him and quoting letters from the Lord Chancellor.

The judge himself told Lord Hailsham at that time: "I realize that you may well try to dismiss me. You are certainly ruthless enough and you may well be short-sighted enough."

There was no answer. Pickles sees himself as a "radical" and the rest of the legal profession as conservative. But he favours tougher sentences: he is highly critical of what he sees as Home Office pressures to relieve prison overcrowding by reducing sentences; and he believes parole has weakened the judges' armoury in tackling crime.

It was his own early experience of the way judges are chosen which formed his views. Now 63, and married

with three grown-up children and two grandchildren, Pickles was born in Halifax in 1925; he was educated at Workop College, Leeds University and at Christ Church, Oxford. Called to the Bar in 1946, he was an assistant recorder in 1963, a Crown Court recorder in 1972, and became a judge in 1976. He dabbled in politics.

standing as a prospective Labour candidate for some years; but he admits he was a failure, being "no good at intrigue and flattery", nor at espousing causes he did not believe in.

As a young barrister, Judge Pickles clashed in court with the late Mr Justice Hinchcliffe, then senior presiding judge of the north-eastern circuit. When Pickles was not nominated in 1971 to be a recorder, he blamed Hinchcliffe. "Someone has put the poison in, and I think it's you," he accused him.

This experience may help to explain why he took up the case last year of Manus Nunan, a sacked crown court recorder, over whom Pickles said he was ready to challenge the Lord Chancellor in legal proceedings. Again it put his own position at risk.

Judge Pickles intends to go on speaking out as long as the public wants to hear him. The Kilnair rules, he believes, are a "dead letter". Instead he will make his own judgements on when it is right to speak. "I have things to tell the public that they are entitled to know," he says. "If I sense that they want me to shut up, I will."

Frances Gibb

Straight from the Bench is published on Thursday by Dent and Sons, £12.95.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1237

ACROSS
1 1901-1986 English composer (6)
5 Seem (6)
8 Slick soil (3)
9 Solar ring (8)
10 Busy (6)
11 Eyed inflammation (4)
12 Clumsy, amateur (8)
14 Kuomintang leader (6-3-4)
17 Advance body (8)
19 Hankering (4)
21 Affectedly pretty (3-3)
23 Soft felt hat (6)
24 Pair (3)
25 Not able to (6)
26 Three horse team (6)

DOWN
2 German submarine (1-4)
3 Aborigine hunting weapon (9)
4 Sighting (7)
5 Old saying (5)
6 House animal (3)
7 Unhelpful, contrary (7)
13 Coach horse rider (9)
15 Pagan (7)
16 Books checker (7)
18 Submit to (5)
20 Wired message (5)
22 Male swan (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1236
ACROSS: 1 Tragic 8 Flog 9 Cumtrot 11 Assemble 13 Prop 15 Scuba flow 18 Ugly 19 Fleecian 22 Peacock 24 Stab 25 Silver.

DOWN: 2 Reams 3 Get 4 Ceed Day Lewis 5 Fury 6 Outgrow 7 Wreak 10 Rapt 12 Most 14 Glib 15 Salient 16 Dump 17 An-
nev 20 Image 21 Lamb 23 Pal

FASHION

Chaste on the beach

Today's swimwear is looser, softer and much more covered-up than the barely-there appearance of yesterday's monokinis. Suzy Menkes reports

If you want to be in the swim this summer, you have to think big. Deep-cut tops, swimming briefs and frills of skirt replace bare-as-you-dare beachwear.

The most dramatic change is below the waist, where a new prudishness brings in wide and long-legged shapes or chaste over-skirts instead of the swimsuits sliced off at the thigh or the micro G-strings and thongs. Even when beachwear is still cut high, a frill round the waist or at the back softens the line.

New is the corset swimsuit that looks as though you had slipped a vest on over a bikini and pulled it down over the thighs. Old-fashioned lingerie is the inspiration for this squared-off shape, and the swimsuits often come in corset colours like peach, pink, black and aqua blue.

High fashion's revival of the 1940s New Look is having a spin-off for swimwear, which is coming up curvy and feminine rather than sleek and sporty. The frill of a skirt, breaking the body-line round the tummy or at the thigh, is part of that softer fashion. Designer Jasper Conran — with a swimwear collection for the first time this season — is in the forefront of the flirty bathing-belle style.

There is also a change around the bustline, where the two minimal triangles of fabric strung together from a halter neck are beginning to look like period pieces.

The bikini bra, thrown to the four winds in the high noon of topless beaches, is being challenged by a solid top that doubles as a bare midriff swimsuit when worn with shorts, wrap skirts or the sawn-off leggings made of lightweight T-shirt fabric.

The deep bra tops, often themselves in stretch cotton T-shirt material, may be worn simply as cover-ups after sunbathing, but they are designed to take to the water.

The rise and rise of the swimsuit — in shape and in popularity — is being challenged by the new two-pieces which give focus and importance to both halves, instead of the bra top being minimal or expendable.

This is generally good news for the pear-shaped Englishwoman, whose generous lower half was not best suited to the high-legged costumes and who will welcome the shaping and uplift of the big bra tops.

The overall effect of the

holiday wear is fresh and sporty, in a way that recalls Hollywood's bathing belles. Not since Esther Williams became a celluloid water baby, or Busby Berkeley synchronized a chorus in swimsuits, has beachwear seemed so much a part of dressing up. Bronzed snakeskin, a gilded stretch swimsuit and a shimmering black and silver bikini are part of that glamour-girl look brought to the high street by Marks & Spencer, whose gold swimsuit with tail feathers of frills sells for the relatively ritzy price of £25.

What of the cover-up, the most essential element for the early sunshine holidays? The casual clothes suited to sunspots at this time of year are the styles that will make it on breezy Atlantic beaches throughout the summer. The cotton knit, that standby of the seaside holiday, looks good with the sturdy lines of the new swimwear.

Matelot stripes in navy and white, sailor and shawl collared tops and cardigans all make the most of changeable holiday weather. The long lean sweater, chastely covering the thighs, turns into a tunic over a skinny swimsuit and can be worn with trousers or jeans.

Dressing in layers is the sensible style for early holidays, so that the cover-up clothes can be peeled off like an artichoke in the warmer part of the day. The same is true of the swimwear itself, for the wide-legged swimshorts can go over a brief bikini bottom, according to the temperature.

Behind the changes in swimwear are three separate factors. The first is the ever-green need of bathing suit manufacturers to whet our appetites with the new. The second is the feeling that overtly sexy clothes are being replaced by a softer and more romantic fashion mood. The third is concern about over-exposure to the sun.

A glowing skin is still part of fashion's holiday package, but beauty companies are increasingly emphasizing safer sunbathing and the need to screen face and body from the sun's fiery power. Spring holiday breaks are taken when the sun is only just warming towards its midsummer heat. The new swimwear is suited to a gentle warmth, and proves that you don't have to bare all to be fashionable on the beach.



Top left: Man's one-piece Lycra swimsuit, £50, by Celia Dewes, from Pellicano, 49 South Molton Street, W1. One-piece grey and black flecked Lycra swimsuit, £19.99, from Pineapple, 7 Langley Street, WC2, 50 Paddington Street, W1 and 38 Harrington Road, SW7. Knee-length black and grey cotton-knit cardigan, £55, by John Flett from Jones, 13 Floral Street, WC2, Square, Bath, and The Warehouse, Glasgow.

Top right: Red cotton jersey midriff top, £12.99, by Monk, available by mail order from Princess House, 52 Eastcastle Street, W1. Red and white striped cotton shorts, £46, by Wendy Dagworthy from Harrods' Young Designer Department, Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1 and Jones, 13 Floral Street, WC2. Rubber swimming cap, £3.95, swimming goggles, £5.50, both from Olympic Way, Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1.

Hair and make-up by AMANDA JACKSON SYTNER. Photographs by CHRIS DAWES

Above left: Black cotton Lycra bikini with frilled skirt, top, £24, briefs, £24, by Jasper Conran from 37 Beauchamp Place, SW3, Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1, Raggs, 13 Church Street, Twickenham. Wide silk scarf, £92, by Georgina von Etzdorf from Lords, Burlington Arcade, SW1.

Above right: Black cotton Lycra one-piece swimsuit with a circular frilled skirt, £41, sunglasses, £41, both from Jasper Conran, 37 Beauchamp Place, SW3, Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW1, Raggs, 13 Church Street, Twickenham. White and grey cotton knit bolero, £51, by John Flett from Jones, 13 Floral Street, WC2, Square, Bath, and The Warehouse, Glasgow. Silk scarf, £45, by Katharine Hammett at 264 Brompton Road, SW5, 50 South Molton Street, W1 and 20 Market Street, Guildford, Surrey.

Look, glisten and learn

● A Way of Looking by Lucinda Pearce, Ward Lock, £12.95

Do-it-yourself beauty is becoming as familiar a subject as knitting for the glossy, hard-back book.

Molton Brown is a hair and beauty salon with a point of view — that nature is more appealing than elaborate artifice and that caring for skin and hair is as important as dressing it up.

This philosophy informs this book, put together by the author and Michael Collis, of Molton Brown. The modern pictures in gentle colours and the practical how-to-do-it sketches are as informative as the basic text. The most original ideas are for hairstyles, which include ideas for decorating your crown with the hair, but by using a crochet hook to make patterns with the strands.

● Cotton Knits edited by Sally Harding, (Windward, £9.95)

Cotton Knits is a more pedestrian book, but useful at this season, for it gathers together a selection of attractive patterns for summer sweaters, worked entirely in colourful and lightweight cotton yarns. It is a formula we have seen many

FASHBOOKS

times before for woollen knits, but editor Sally Harding, former Vogue knitting editor, has commissioned stylish patterns, most of them for experienced knitters or those who can follow a chart easily.

Alongside the traditional flower, folklore and Fair Isle patterns, there are modern stripes, including winding bands of colour, graphically described as tiger tails.

The shapes are up to the moment fashion with the accent on short sleeves and shapely bodies, in tune with the looks of the summer.

As well as the 30 patterns, complete with their instructions, there is useful advice on handling the cotton yarns, and a list of suppliers.

● Designer Needlepoint edited by Hugh Ehrman (Century Hutchinson, £14.95)

Life's rich tapestry is all in Hugh Ehrman's new book. Needlepoint cushions sprout among bright flowers in cottage gardens; samplers hang beside milk jugs and corn dollies in a country kitchen; a pale fringed rug frames a

design of a vase of flowers and a rose from a Persian carpet is worked on a cushion and scattered with flower petals.

Hugh Ehrman has done for needlepoint what he — and many others — have done for handknitting. Designer Needlepoint shows works of art in stitches by designers like Kaffe Fassett and Susan Duckworth, known for their magic carpets of knitting. These are just two of the 25 exclusive designs for tapestry work presented with detailed instructions for those clever with the needle.

History is woven in other panels, for the Victoria and Albert Museum offers designs based on medieval peasant scenes and an 18th century Chippendale rose and a sturdy Victorian parrot come from the Royal School of Needlework.

Inevitably, most of the tapestries are designed as cushion squares, although footstools and a chair seat in a particularly pretty honeysuckle design come from the Royal School of Needlework. A series of lyrical photographs by Belinda Banks (who could have been given more credit) make this book a pleasure for those not planning to lift a thimble, as well as an instructive tome for tapestry specialists.

PEOPLE

Picture pancake

In the belief that beauty is in the eye of the beholder, giant cosmetic company Revlon has commissioned Richard Avedon to select and focus his famous camera on "unforgettable" women for a series of glossy pictures to appear in major publications this year. First out of Avedon's beauty bag is a line-up of familiar Beautiful People, including Jerry Hall, Somali beauty Iman and Nick Kamen's other half — model Talisa Soto. The most "unforgettable" thing about the flawless faces Avedon has snapped is that they are all covered in so much (Revlon) make-up that they all look exactly the same.

Sleek items

As well as dressing up from head to toe, sending our flowers and designing our homes, fashion chain Next are now taking care of the bare essentials. Essential

Next is the latest venture in the ever-expanding empire, coming to your high street soon. Apparently it is impossible to be an international traveller or high-powered business-person without the aid of a sleek black telescopic razor/hair-dryer/toe-nail clipper or a convertible calculator/radio/alarm clock. Other indispensable items on offer include a self-filling toothbrush and a picnic capote, all encased in smooth black plastic with the occasional flash of silver.

Smart scent

You failed to make it along with Joan Collins, Liz Taylor, Marjorie Main and the jet-set to buy the Duchess of Windsor's jewels? Then jewellers Van Cleef & Arpels have the gem of an answer for you: this week they launch a new fragrance, its bottle faceted like a diamond, its stopper the size of one of those Windsor rocks, called, appropriately, Gem. It goes under the hammer at £45 for the connoisseur's 7 ml bottle.

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This beautiful rug in pale tones of peach, gold, turquoise and cream is based on the design of a 17th century Mughal carpet from the palace of the Maharajah of Jaipur, Rajasthan which is in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The colours are lighter than the original and, like many modern dhurries, fit well in most settings, including bedrooms.

The rug measures 32" x 44" and the design is hand-stencilled on to 5-mesh canvas, which makes it quick and easy to work. The canvas has a key for identifying the colours and is worked in half-cross stitch with Readicut rug wools. The kit comes complete with canvas, needle, wools and instructions, along with the cotton yarn for the fringe. All for £47.50 including postage and packing. Use FREEPOST — no stamp needed.

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HEWLETT
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THE TIMES DIARY

Maltese CROSS

The latest row over housing for Her Majesty's representatives abroad centres on Malta. The British mission has incurred the wrath of a local residents' group which is protesting against proposals to build a new High Commission in a leafy children's playground. The Queen has been petitioned by environmentally-minded residents of Floriana, the Valletta suburb where the playground was set up as part of the George V jubilee fund. The lease on the mission's current home in an apartment block expires in 1989, and permission has already been granted by the Socialist government to build new premises. But this may be revoked by the opposition Nationalist Party, if it wins the general election next month, on the grounds that the area is already too built up. In the meantime, suggestions by British officials that the site is dusty and old have further fuelled local tempers.

Not rated

The beleaguered ratepayers of Labour-controlled Waltham Forest, trying to escape the recently-imposed 62 per cent rate increase by redrawing the county boundaries, have received a cold shoulder from the MP for Chingford, Norman Tebbit. The Conservative Party chairman — whose constituents in the Chingford Chamber of Commerce want to come under Essex County Council — has told them to think again. "Norman has said they haven't got a hope in hell of persuading the Boundary Commission to change just because of the big rate rise. They would be wasting their time," says his agent, James Cosello. Instead, the MP suggests they concentrate on getting him re-elected and press for rate-capping.

● The Pulitzer Prize Board, responsible for the coveted American journalism awards, has awarded a special citation to Joseph Pulitzer Jr. His achievement — among others: chairing the Pulitzer board for 31 years.

Crossed line

France's recently-privatised TFI television channel, in which Robert Maxwell has a stake, produced its own version of ecumenism on Sunday. A mix-up with sound and pictures on its main news programme gave viewers film of a jam-packed St Peter's Square in Rome, with the Pope appearing on the balcony to give the traditional Easter blessing, while the sound was the resonant call of a muezzin bidding the Islamic faithful to prayer. The synchronization was such that it appeared the St Peter's crowd was gazing at an out-of-sight minaret. The muezzin's call was repeated during a later item about Muslims in French Guyana.

BARRY FANTONI



'Personally, I'd like to see it applied to opinion polls as well.'

Snapping up

Before he has even made a bid, I can reveal the identity of the mystery buyer who will be at the other end of a transatlantic telephone line during a Christie's auction tomorrow evening. The event is the sale of landscape photographs taken by David Bailey, Lord Lichfield, Clive Arrow-Smith, Linda McCartney and others to raise £30,000 for the Council for the Protection of Rural England. The anonymous bidder, I understand, will be the council's president, film-maker David Putnam, now chairman of Columbia Pictures in Hollywood. Keen to own some of the pictures of threatened countryside, Putnam is said to be seeking anonymity for fear of offending photographers whose work he does not buy. The reason is that for a brief period in the 1960s he ran a photographic agency — which represented both Bailey and Arrow-Smith. "So far he has refrained from making any advance bids, but I am sure he will want to buy," admits Robin Grove-White, the council's director.

● Popular Propaganda, a New Right mail-order company, is now selling T-shirts emblazoned with "First Strike Now", "Privatize Me" and a front page headline "Maggie Scores Hat-trick".

Staying on

The exodus of staff from Sotheby's, which I reported last week, does not include David Moore-Gwynn, who assures me he has no intention of leaving.

PHS

In the early 1960s, while serving as liaison officer between MI6 and the CIA, Maurice Oldfield volunteered to undertake a lie detector test. One of the questions he agreed to answer was whether or not he was a homosexual since "however heterosexual we may be, we bachelors today are always suspected of being homosexual just because we aren't married."

Although he convinced the Americans at the time that he was not homosexual, it has been suggested since that he beat the lie detector. Until now it was believed that the allegations that he resorted to male prostitutes were typical of the accusations directed at other bachelor public figures, part of a smear campaign that had no basis in fact. The perpetrators of the smear were said to range from members of the security service to Protestant loyalists suspicious of Oldfield's job as co-ordinator of intelligence in Northern Ireland in 1979-80, to which he was summoned by Mrs Thatcher from retirement at All Souls, Oxford.

But, according to Chapman Pincher's new book, *Trailers: The Labyrinths of Treason*, one of the most respected heads of British intelligence was indeed a secret, promiscuous homosexual whose "requirement for rough trade made him susceptible to blackmail."

Good sources tell me that the evidence suggests that Oldfield was certainly homosexual. Whether he used male prostitutes is more difficult to ascertain. But on balance the evidence suggests that he did. If so, what are the implications?

Given that close colleagues, his biographer and friends have denied that Oldfield was homosexual, it suggests that he kept that life very separate. I believe that the Americans did not know. Nor were any complaints made about his behaviour during any of his foreign postings. But did the Russians know, bearing in mind how heavily they had infiltrated the British intelligence services?

Andrew Lownie sees a link between a new security allegation and the Wright trial

Oldfield: why raise this spectre now?



Oldfield: would have confessed

One well-known homosexual with whom Oldfield was friendly was the Labour MP Tom Driberg, friend of Guy Burgess, and an informant of both MI5 and the KGB. The two met in the 1970s through their common adherence to High Anglicanism. Both worshipped at St Matthew's, Westminster. The impression is that Driberg just passed to the KGB snippets of gossip and bits of compromising information about his fellow MPs and other figures. Had he known of Oldfield's homosexuality, he would very probably have passed it on.



Driberg: frequent meetings

Clearly if the allegations are true Oldfield did pose a security risk. At the time homosexuality was a criminal offence and a number of British officials were compromised on account of it, among them the Admiralty clerk John Vassall. However, had the Russians compromised Oldfield, it is highly unlikely that he would have become a double agent. He would almost certainly have confessed to his superiors that he was a homosexual who had become a security risk, and would have resigned.

In a comparable case in 1968,

Sir Geoffrey Harrison resigned voluntarily as British ambassador to Moscow after being compromised by a maid in the embassy. Oldfield's departure would no doubt have been similarly arranged.

Oldfield did resign in 1976 — a year after a bomb attempt on his life — because of cancer of the stomach. He died five years later, little knowing of the controversy that would pursue him.

Although it appears — despite his frequent meetings in later life with Driberg — that Oldfield was never compromised, these new allegations about the security services, after the humiliation of the Peter Wright case, must be of some embarrassment to the government.

A number of papers have seen parallels with other homosexual members of the security services like Guy Burgess and Anthony Blunt, who enjoyed the protection of the establishment, but Oldfield was in fact very much an outsider. The oldest of 11 children of a Derbyshire tenant farmer, he came — compared to most members of both MI6 and MI5 — from a very modest background.

The question remains, why have details of Oldfield's private life come out now? The timing of the disclosure is connected with the desire of former members of MI5 and MI6 to raise some of the issues which surfaced during the Wright case. In particular they think there should be a thorough investigation into allegations about the bugging of Harold Wilson's office while he was prime minister, about the framing of Peter Hain, and security operations in Northern Ireland during the 1970s. Anything that can be done to throw doubt on the security services in this period would help their case.

© The Independent, 1987. The author is London representative of the National Intelligence Centre attached to Georgetown University, Washington.

Ben Pimlott

Blackballing the blue and red

As speculation grows of an early election which, the bookies say, Mrs Thatcher is sure to win, a growing number of anti-Tory punters are backing a horse called "tactical voting". Alas, it is a non-runner.

Originally a syndrome rather than an option, tactical voting was deemed to have taken place if a significant proportion of voters appeared to have deserted their first-choice candidate in favour of a second preference in order to reduce the chances of another strongly placed contender.

Encouraged by supposed "tactical" results in the Fulham and Greenwich by-elections, and alarmed by Tory strength in the polls, keen campaigners have appropriated tactical voting and redefined it. It is no longer a mere descriptive label. It has become a political virtue, to which all thoughtful and progressive voters should aspire. An organization, TV 87, has been set up to propagate this view, the pro-Labour *New Statesman* has printed a helpful chart showing its readers in key marginals what to do; and the indefatigable Lord Young of Dartington has set up a voters' consumer body, the Centre for Electoral Choice, with a hot line for worried voters.

Labour party opinion, so far, has been predictably suspicious, regarding the new gospel as a crude ploy to help the Alliance. This particular criticism, however, cannot be sustained. True, if "tactical" results became the norm, the Alliance would gain the greater number of seats. But if enough Conservative seats were taken to deprive Mrs Thatcher of her overall majority, Labour would be the beneficiary. Paradoxically, the Alliance might suffer for its success: as Dr Owen's recent equivocations imply, the Liberals and SDP would gain most from a third Conservative victory.

The real difficulty lies elsewhere — in psychology, and in logic. "Tactical voting" as a description for what sometimes happens may be fair. But for an individual in the privacy of the polling booth, a "tactical" vote is not an act that has any meaning.

There is a familiar exam question: "Since your chances of affecting the result of an election are less than the risk of being hit by a car on the way to the polling station, why don't you stay in bed?" No parliamentary seat since the introduction of universal suffrage has been won or lost by the margin of a single vote. The statistical possibility of it happening is so remote that it may be dismissed as a reason for voting.

Perhaps there is a collective suspension of disbelief. Certainly we may be thankful that the overwhelming majority of adults, knowing rationally that their individual votes are inconsequential, nevertheless choose to exercise them — often, as in the case of the elderly, at personal inconvenience or discomfort. Why do they do it? One thing is clear: to cast a vote has more to do with civic obligation than with the supermarket politics imagined by

TV 87. To vote is not (as pollsters and some politicians believe) to take a calculated step towards a bigger car or a smaller mortgage. It is a secret, symbolic declaration of identity: loyalty, attachment, bitterness, anger, impatience, gratitude, hope, idealism or simple preference.

Constitutionally, people vote for candidates. In practice — except, crucially, at by-elections — nearly all cast their ballot for a particular party, relating their vote to what they feel about it and the policies it recommends. This relationship is what makes democracy a functioning thing, but there is something more. The quinquennial voting festival is important not just because it determines the shape of the next parliament but also because it involves the mass of people, election by election, in a minimal opportunity to take part in the process by which they are governed.

Long may the opportunity be cherished and not abused. It may be objected that a vote aimed at doing down a party or candidate you dislike is no different from a vote intended to support a party or candidate you favour. But, in reality, the two are not the same. To preach "tactical" voting is to peddle a confidence trick. It is also to encourage confusion. In one sense, every vote that expresses a true and positive emotion is precious to democracy. A blackball vote is not only ineffective; it is empty as well.

It is doubtful, in fact, whether tactical voting is often consciously intended. The Greenwich result can easily be explained in terms, not of tactical, but of bandwagon voting. Rosie Barnes of the SDP gained her victory (so it may be argued) because former Tory and Labour voters were persuaded by the media and by a tide of opinion polls that it was the thing to do. Once Labour's Deirdre Wood had been judged by the newspapers to be beyond the pale, the electors simply plumped for the more appealing of the two remaining choices. Tactics were not involved.

Local bandwagons are less likely at general elections because the national media focus on national leaders, and the political coverage of the local press, abysmally inadequate in normal times, shrivels to anodyne nothingness once the flag is up.

On the other hand, a national bandwagon — Greenwich writ large — is very much on the cards. The fear of this happening was, of course, the reason why the Prime Minister fumbled an election on May 7. An Alliance surge at the expense of both the other parties during the campaign could produce a hung parliament and rob Mrs Thatcher of her premiership.

But if that happens, the only tactics that will matter will be those of the politicians, after the election is over.

The author is Professor of Politics and Contemporary History at Birkbeck College, London University.

Henry Stanhope

The drifting fifties

Now we are two-score-years-and-ten, twenty will not come again. I am thus puzzled by friends who have recently been holding parties to celebrate their reaching the age of 50. It has never seemed to me like one of those milestones in my life on which I wished to sit down and make merry — unless, like Dick Whittington, I might be given the opportunity to return.

I relished being six, rejoiced at 21, accepted 30 without demur and greeted 40 with relief. Forty is indeed the ideal age, when vigour and maturity blend as in vintage claret. The word itself has a robustness which makes 39 sound weak and pusillanimous. It is after all, they say, the age at which life begins. But nobody could say that of 50. While life is not actually ending or even entering a marked diminuendo, there is no gainsaying the fact that at 50 it is well under way.

Fifty is the age at which the assistant under-manager (buying) acknowledges that his dream of becoming chief executive and marrying the chairman's daughter is beginning to look rather blurred; or at which the actor playing the butler in provincial rep comes to terms with the fact that when the great Hamlets of the 20th century are considered, his name is unlikely to be among them. One's 50th birthday is a day of gentle reckoning with oneself.

By the age of 50, Columbus had already discovered America, Stanley had presumed Dr Livingstone and poor Captain Scott had reached, though too late, the South Pole. Henry VIII had married all but one of his wives (and the days of Catherine Howard were already numbered); Drake had seen off the Armada, Wellington had smashed the French at Waterloo, Nelson had done much the same at Trafalgar, though at rather more cost to himself, while Napoleon was living in retirement on the sun-kissed island of St Helena.

Shakespeare had written all his plays and Dickens most of his novels — he had just published *Great Expectations* and was working on *Our Mutual Friend*. Hardy, with most of his fiction behind him, was polishing off *Tess* of the

Durbervilles, Mark Twain had created Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, Tolstoy had written *War and Peace* and *Anna Karenina*, Shakespeare had written *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and E.M. Forster, that well-known writer of film scripts, had finished *A Room with a View*, *A Passage to India*, and *Howards End*.

Thackeray, in between reviewing for *The Times*, among other things, had completed *Vanity Fair*, Lewis Carroll had written *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*, Tolkien had dreamed up *The Hobbit* and was working on a whole new civilization in *Lord of the Rings*, while Tennyson had been poet laureate for nine years.

Rembrandt had painted *The Nightwatch*, Constable *The Haywain* and Michelangelo the Sistine Chapel, while Leonardo da Vinci, having finished *The Last Supper*, was wrestling with that enigmatic smile. Beethoven had composed eight of his nine symphonies, Brahms three of his four and Tchaikovsky had finished his 5th. And Mozart? At 50 Wolfgang Amadeus, beloved of God, had been dead for 15 years.

Not all have completed their magnum opus before reaching that certain age. Swift had nine years to go before finishing *Gulliver's Travels* and Milton roughly the same period before knocking off *Paradise Lost*. Handel had not yet given birth to *The Messiah*; neither Washington nor Lincoln, nor yet Franklin Roosevelt, had become president of the United States; and I doubt if General Montgomery had even heard of El Alamein. But one feels that they understood their destiny.

Winston Churchill at 50 had his wilderness years ahead before making it to the top, but already he had been Chancellor of the Exchequer. Harold Wilson was prime minister at the age of 48, which was more than could be said for Edward Heath or Mrs Thatcher. But at 50 both were leaders of their party.

For the rest of us, it is a time for rueful contemplation rather than cakes and ale. Hope springs eternal, so they say, but there's no point of making a meal of it.

Vernon Bogdanor suggests a way out of the local government impasse

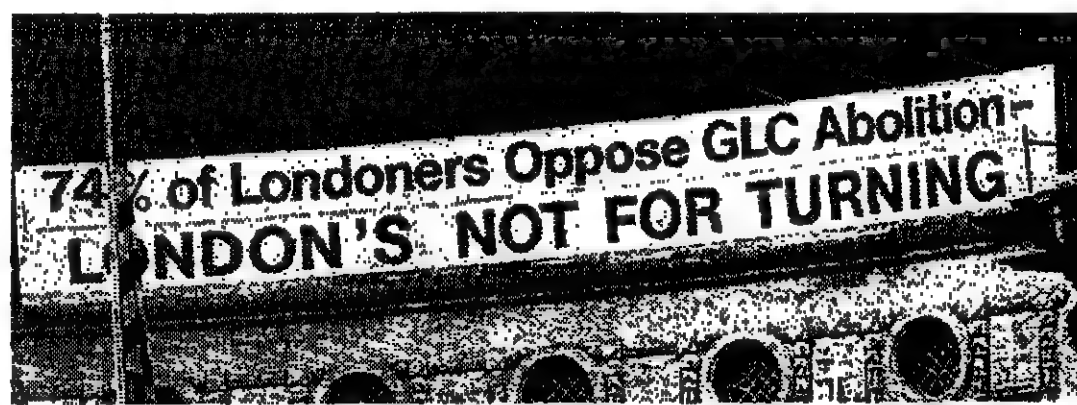
Town hall pride, public trust

In 1959, after Labour's third successive election defeat, Hugh Gaitskell blamed Labour councils for their secretive and authoritarian habits. Will Neil Kinnock have to do the same? For, if Labour's opinion poll ratings remain obstinately low, the reason lies much in the activities of left-wing councils — albeit a small minority — as in Labour's programme. Indeed, the publicity given to councils such as Brent and Lambeth has obscured the moderate orientation of Labour's front bench and the fact that, apart from unilateral nuclear disarmament, Kinnock has made few real concessions to the left.

Admittedly, the tradition of Fabian paternalism which Gaitskell was attacking is now dead. It has been replaced by the concept of the "local state", offering an alternative political base from which to mount an assault on a government of the right. So, while at Westminster the Conservatives have determinedly broken with the post-war consensus, some Labour councils have attacked it from the opposite direction — a striking illustration of what Sir Keith Joseph once called the ratchet effect, with extremism on the one side engendering extremism on the other.

The government's response to the obduracy of left-wing councils — rate-capping, abolishing the GLC and the metropolitan counties, transferring functions to the centre — has severely weakened the ability of all local authorities to represent their communities. Yet the effective provision of public services requires co-operation between central and local government, rather than the current campaign of trench warfare. Accustomed to unremitting conflict, we have lost sight of the fact that, for example, the Education Department and local education authorities have — or ought to have — a common interest in improving the education system. Failure to work together will lead to deterioration.

Whoever wins the battle between central and local government, it is the bystanders — those for whom public services are provided — who will lose. The government's response to extremism in local government is flawed even from its own ideological standpoint. Its assumption is that policies of devolution from local authorities — whether to local institutions such as schools, quangos or private bodies — can so drastically reduce the role of local government that it will cease to be



Turned it was, despite Labour's strenuous opposition; but not in the right direction

a political forum of any substance at all. At last year's Conservative Party conference, Nicholas Ridley, the Environment Secretary, praised the example of some American local authorities which, he claimed, met only once a year to decide how to contract out services for the coming year. Such councillors, Ridley declared, were ones whose attendance allowances he would gladly pay.

Whether services are provided publicly or privately, and whether there is devolution of authority or decisions on priorities have still to be made. The market cannot make these decisions; they must be made politically, either by local authorities or by central government, by the man in Whitehall whom Conservatives used to insist, did not know best. So it is that the ideologists of the market economy such as Hayek emphasize the role of local government as an alternative to the accretion of power at the centre.

The essence of the government's approach to public services is that they be made accountable to the consumer: yet, in its mistrust of the political process, the government has failed to ensure that they are so accountable to the electors. Mrs Thatcher has sought to transform Britain's political culture to make the people more self-reliant, independent and responsible. That is a worthy aim. But this new sense of responsibility is unlikely to remain confined within the economic sphere without also seeking a political outlet. Is there an alternative response to extremism which, unlike the government's approach, would invigorate local councils instead of emasculating them?

The extremists in local government defend their actions by invoking the doctrine of the mandate. They are, so they claim, under a duty to fulfil their manifesto which has the authority

of the electorate behind it. This claim would be more plausible if turnout in local elections was not generally below 50 per cent, and if the authorities concerned genuinely represented a majority of their voters. Yet, as the table shows, not one of the three most criticized councils — Brent, Haringey and Lambeth — enjoys majority support.

Benefiting from the first-past-the-post electoral system, the caucus, representing a minority within the Labour Party as well as within the electorate, is able to dominate the council. If the activists in Inner London truly represented the wishes of the local electorate, local autonomy would indeed be difficult to defend, for few would be willing to concede wide revenue-raising powers, or the power to determine the pattern of public services to authorities such as Brent and Lambeth; but because they do not, an alternative response is possible.

The pre-condition of any attempt to revive local government must be the introduction of an electoral system which clearly reflects the wishes of the voters.

London borough elections, 1986

	% Votes	Seats	% Seats
Brent			
Labour	46.4	43	65.2
Con	36.8	20	30.3
Alliance	17.7	3	4.5
Others	0.1	0	0
Haringey			
Labour	43.0	42	71.2
Con	35.1	18	27.1
Alliance	19.1	1	1.7
Others	2.8	0	0
Lambeth			
Labour	44.7	40	62.5
Con	33.9	21	32.8
Alliance	20.2	3	4.7
Others	1.3	0	0

Strikers alienating their allies

the third week of their selective strike action. They want an improved pay offer of 15 per cent or £20 a week. The Treasury remains adamant that 4.25 per cent, plus bonuses, is its final offer.

The rolling six-week strike, which moves to the North East today, involves three days of selective action with two days of all-out strike action, affecting everything from customs to courts. But throughout the week DHSS and employment offices are closed, causing suffering and hardship to thousands of claimants.

Although the unions claim to be taking their stand for the unemployed and disadvantaged, who they allege are at the sharp end of the deteriorating conditions, there is now little doubt that the front soldiers forced to take the brunt of industrial action are those most in need. Why? The last civil service strike in

1981 was aimed at the Inland Revenue. The tax collecting service almost ground to a halt and millions of pounds were lost, but the government refused to budge and the unions were forced to settle well below their original claim. The lessons of the 1981 defeat are not lost on the unions: in the words of one CPSA official, the only way to beat the government is "to fight dirty."

Hence the decision to close down the benefit offices.

Although critics in the labour movement see no logic in hitting the one sector of society which is solidly anti-Tory, the CPSA and SCPS believe the unifying spectacle of thousands of claimants on the streets should be enough to move the government to increase its pay offer. If, after May 16, it becomes clear that it is not, a further ballot will be held on all-out strike action.

Roland Rudd



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A LONG RACE BEGUN

Eight Americans — with many more to come — have now declared their candidacies for the 1988 presidency, even though the election is 20 months away. That is in an American tradition. They are an uninspiring lot. That is also in an American tradition.

Most Presidents, no matter how awesome they appear to history, looked less so once. Today Franklin Roosevelt looks like going down as the most influential president of the century. And yet: "the belief is widespread and strong that the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt would bring to the office of President a man of only moderate capacity... the judgement exists, and has grown more firm, that he has not the grasp of issues or the disinterestedness or the resolution that a president must have in time of great emergency." Thus, some months before Roosevelt's election, Walter Lippmann, one of the two leading commentators of the period.

And not long before Roosevelt's immense re-election victory over Alfred Landon in 1936 the view was expressed that "a Chinaman could beat Roosevelt". Thus H.L. Mencken, the other of the two leading commentators of the period.

At the moment, only Mr Gary Hart, who last week declared his candidacy, Vice-President George Bush, who will declare his towards the end of this year, the Senate Republican leader Robert Dole (ditto) and the Rev. Jesse Jackson (a special case) are known to the American public at large.

But at the same point in the electoral cycle, Mr Jimmy Carter was just one of a list of essentially provincial politicians discussed in connection

with the "wide open" Democratic nomination of 1976. Who today is Congressman Richard Gephardt, who declared his candidacy recently? He is as obscure as Mr Carter was at a comparable time. So he could be the next President of the United States.

Equally, many who once loomed large soon looked small. Under the heading, "The Feeling in Favour of Newton D. Baker", Lippmann, writing from the Chicago convention which first nominated Roosevelt, assured his readers: "All through these various delegations there is an astonishingly strong though quiet conviction that the party can unite on a man who is stronger than any of the leading contenders. That man is Newton D. Baker of Ohio." The subsequent history of American presidential politics has no place for Newton D. Baker of Ohio.

Nothing will be known about the identity of the next president until the candidates are exposed to a reasonable number of real voters. That will not happen until the late winter of 1988 — first in the Iowa caucus, then a few days later in the New Hampshire primary. These are the two contests which both parties have over the years come to accept as the start of the long struggle.

A caucus is theoretically just a straw poll of each party's members coming together in party meetings across a state. A primary electorate is broader — voters in polling booths. Mr Carter organized the Iowa caucus thoroughly and used the publicity resulting from his win in New Hampshire. Iowa gave him the vital "name recognition".

Since then all candidates

trouble as many of their voters as possible to go out in the Iowa winter to the caucus meetings. A combination of Iowa and New Hampshire granted recognition to Mr Hart's name in 1984. In 1980 the obscure Washington insider, Mr George Bush, frightened Mr Reagan by beating him in Iowa and set in train the process by which he forced Mr Reagan to make him his vice-presidential running mate at the Detroit convention many months later.

Now Mr Hart and Mr Bush are the candidates at whose expense others are seeking "name recognition". Both have an insecure hold on the affections of their parties. Has Senator Dole upset the right by becoming too much part of the Washington senatorial establishment? Will the divided Right opt for Congressman Jack Kemp, or search desperately for someone who seems brighter on television?

If ex-senator Paul Laxalt runs, will investigative journalists cripple him with charges about casinos and organized crime when he was governor of Nevada?

Has the liberal Governor Cuomo of New York really taken himself out of the race? If he comes back in, will it just prove that only a southern Conservative can win for the Democrats now that so much of the northern blue-collar vote seems to prefer Republican presidents. As for the other Democratic possibilities (Senators Gore, Biden, Simon, Bradley, Governors Dukakis of California and Clinton of Arizona, ex-governor Babbitt of Arizona, not forgetting Congressman Richard Gephardt), is one of them the Jimmy Carter of 1988 or are they all the Newton D. Bakers?

MR BAKER'S MOVE

Yesterday's news from the Easter conferences of the teaching unions makes grim reading. The prospect of Britain's schools being run according to rules reminiscent of the worst of British industry is an indictment of all who are responsible.

State education needs reform. But unlike the mines or the steel industry it cannot be reformed while at the same time being a battlefield. Both the Government and the unions have to recognise that fact.

Even the Secretary of State for Education, Mr Kenneth Baker, may have been surprised by the vehemence of the conferences against the removal of union negotiating rights. This one issue is affecting teachers' attitudes to everything else on the education agenda, in particular to those matters that Mr Baker himself has placed there: the national curriculum, the attainment targets accompanied by standardized testing for pupils, the greater financial autonomy for schools, the increased influence for parents and the formal system of appraising teachers' performance.

The unions have either already aligned themselves against all these initiatives or are in the process of doing so. It could be argued that in the course of their long campaign for better pay, the teachers have got into the habit of saying no; that this customary recalcitrance may well have extended to Mr Baker's initiatives anyway. But it must be doubted whether, with a better prospect of seeing some of their negotiating position restored, they would be as determinedly destructive of the Government's attempts to reform state education.

Both the unions now in conference, the NUT and the NAS/UCT, are affiliated to the TUC. Both are led by old-fashioned trade unionists. Both enjoy the genuine support of the majority of their members who together comprise three-quarters of the classroom teachers in England and Wales. Both unions are convinced that Mr Baker's Act has stripped them of their fundamental democratic right to negotiate their members' pay and conditions.

In the short term, both are committed to a renewed campaign of strikes when the new term begins in a week's time. In the long term both seem set on a policy of boycotts and non-co-operation.

In the interest of pupils, which both sides repeatedly insist is paramount, the time has come for a review of what is really at stake. Mr Baker must decide whether he wishes an all-out war against the teaching unions, whether there is a genuine cause for such a war and whether the public would support it.

He ought also to be searching for a formula by which the unions might once again strive to represent their members' interests. It is hard to see why, except for discreditable reasons of political triumph, he should be insisting on the three year "cooling off period" allowed by the Act.

The Government has a veto over the size of the teachers' pay bill, as it must. It also determines through a system of grades and allowances what individual teachers should be paid. At the same time it is laying down what they should do for their pay. So what has the Government to fear?

It might, of course, also be asked what the teachers have

to gain. But, if they will be content with a new semblance of bargaining in place of the old, all-embracing and entirely discredited system, that is their affair. It seems clear that they will accept nothing less. There can be no better politician than Mr Baker for keeping the Government's essential position intact while giving the union leaders a formula to save their face. He must use those skills.

In return, the teachers must hasten to apply their minds to the real educational issues embodied in the rest of Mr Baker's plans. Boycotts will not do. Outright opposition is not even credible — as, to give them their due, the executives of the unions recognize.

The essentials of a national curriculum already exist. The urgent need now is to get rid of the inessential, what Sir Keith Joseph used to call "clutter". This need is widely recognized. There are the beginnings of a consensus on the issue. But if teachers are not involved in the details of the core curriculum, this will not survive.

As for the setting of standardized tests, the teachers' fears must be given due weight — in particular the fears that they could lead to an unduly narrow educational experience for many children. That means teachers must be prepared to be consulted.

There is wide support in the profession even for an effective method of appraising and improving teachers' performance. But, as things stand, that is another important reform destined to be boycotted. State education cannot be improved by a Government and a profession at loggerheads. The next move is for Mr Baker.

Appeal procedures

From Mr P. K. M. Longley
Sir, There has been much discussion in recent weeks as to whether there should be a procedure, other than by way of an appeal against sentence by a convicted person, enabling the Court of Appeal to consider a sentence passed by a court of first instance and, if so, whether the Court of Appeal should have the power to alter such a sentence.

Such procedures exist in a number of Commonwealth jurisdictions, including Hong Kong. Since 1972 the Attorney General of Hong Kong has been able, with leave of the Chief Justice, to apply to the Court of Appeal for the review of any sentence on the grounds that it is not authorised by law, is wrong in principle, is manifestly excessive or is manifestly inadequate. Upon hearing the application the Court of

Appeal may quash the sentence passed by the lower court and substitute the sentence it considers appropriate.

A practice has become established that if the Court of Appeal finds a particular sentence manifestly inadequate or wrong in principle it will state the sentence it considers proper for the offence in question but substitute a lesser sentence to take account of the fact that the convicted person has been placed in double peril by the application for review.

Such applications, which must be signed personally by the Attorney General, have been used sparingly and with the object of securing general rulings of principle, such as the setting of tariffs, as much as specifically to affect the sentence of an individual offender.

An application in respect of an apparently over-lenient sentence will not normally be made unless the Attorney General considers

that a particular sentence is likely to be damaging to public confidence.

In 1986 there were 23 applications, in six of which the application was refused either on the application for leave or at the hearing of the application.

While constituting some departure from the traditional role of attorney general in respect of sentence, the Court of Appeal has emphasized that on the hearing of the application prosecuting counsel remains a minister of justice. While he may cite authority and draw the court's attention to any matter appearing on the court record he may not adduce new evidence with a view to an increase in sentence.

Yours faithfully,
P. K. M. LONGLEY,
B44,
Repulse Bay Apartments,
101 Repulse Bay Road,
Hong Kong.
March 26.

Two-way traffic as aid to science

From Professor Emeritus Esmond Wright
Sir, Whatever the emotions that the phrase "brain drain" arouses, it is a total perversion of the reality of today's scholarly traffic. The striking achievement of the last 50 years has been the ease of the two-way transit, to the betterment of all.

Let me be specific. When I first went to the US as a Commonwealth Fellow, nearly 50 years ago, there were no other awards available to British scholars, and only Rhodes Fellows came the other way. Today the list is long: Kennedy (British Government-financed) for awards to the US; Marshall scholarships (British Government-financed) for some 30 Americans each year to come this way; Fulbright grants (US-financed) for both senior and junior fellows, in both directions; Thouron awards from and to the University of Pennsylvania; Frank Knox awards to Harvard and for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Proctor awards to Princeton; and now, from both countries, a host of one-year awards or "junior year abroad" schemes; and a number of American universities have a British "campus": Stanford, Rockefeller (in Regent's Park, no less) Colgate, Hollins, to name only a few.

Of the 1,000 or more British students since the inception of the Commonwealth Fund fellowships (renamed Harkness after the donor's death), only 150 now live or work in the US. Thirty are in "other countries", from Fiji to Zimbabwe.

Of the 250 British holders of Thouron awards (founded in 1960) only some 70 remain in the US. Of those of them (roughly one in five)

Trade with Japan

From Mr Phillip Oppenheim, MP for Amber Valley (Conservative)
Sir, Japan may be known as a protectionist country; this was deserved in the past and is deserved at present in some areas such as whisky. Alleged Japanese protectionism may sometimes be used as a convenient excuse for the failure of European and American businessmen to make the kind of investment needed to sell in Japan. After all, how many Western businessmen in Japan even speak Japanese? Cable & Wireless are, however, making just the right kind of effort to get into the Japanese market.

Unfortunately, we do not seem to be setting the Japanese a very good example in this area. It is a fact that the Japanese market for terminal telecommunications equipment is now far more liberal than that of our so-called European partners. Few major Western countries even have second network operators, let alone allow foreigners to take large stakes in them. This is certainly the case in the EEC, and even in Britain the British-controlled Cable & Wireless's Mercury is the only licensed secondary operator.

The Japanese may have been politically inept, considering their successes in Western markets, not to have allowed Cable & Wireless to take a large stake in the proposed second international network franchise, but in justice they do have a case. Perhaps we should look to our friends in the EEC to give a lead in this area, though I hear no talk of retaliatory action against the French, Italians or Germans.

Yours faithfully,
PHILLIP OPPENHEIM,
House of Commons.

Sugar mountain

From Mr M. D. Chataway
Sir, Sir Edward du Cann in his letter to you (April 1) rightly draws attention to the enormous financial losses taxpayers have to bear as a consequence of the Common Market's agricultural policies. He was the chairman of the House of Commons' Public Accounts Commission and he rightly looks at these losses with an auditor's eye.

However, there is another aspect equally important which must not be overlooked: the effect of dumping of surplus EEC commodities on the open market has on the economies of producers in the rest of the world. The problem of the butter mountain is well known but there are many other surplus EEC commodities, such as sugar.

This week the EEC Commission granted price rebates of up to 468.64 ecu (European currency unit) (£334 per tonne on 102,360 tonnes of refined sugar to be exported. This represented a subsidy on the free on board price producers will receive for the sugar of some 75 per cent. In total more than three million tonnes will have to be subsidised to allow it to be exported this year alone.

It is true that in part the producers are supposed to reim-

Beating gazumping

From Mr Harry Harris
Sir, As a solicitor involved primarily in residential conveyancing it seems to me that the only way one might prevent gazumping (and then there is no guarantee) would be for estate agents to "buy in", hold stocks of, and part-exchange houses in the same way as motor dealers handle cars.

A person who wished to move house would view various properties and, having selected the house, arrange his finance, in the same way as hire-purchase on a vehicle. After surveys, timber and damp-proof course reports etc. he would agree a purchase price with

who study for an MBA (Master of Business Administration) at the Wharton School and then have a spell in business management over there, the overwhelming majority in the end return to the UK, bringing their varied experience with them.

A real understanding of each other depends on this easy and regular exchange of people. The student (of all ages) ought to be, if not a citizen of the world, at least a transatlantic animal. To suggest otherwise is the real *trahison des clercs*.

Yours,
ESMOND WRIGHT (Chairman, British Selection Committee, Thouron awards),
University of London,
Institute of United States Studies,
31 Tavistock Square, WC1,
April 15.

From Dr C. J. Peacock
Sir, When discussing industry, research and the universities there is danger in confusing two quite separate aspects. A university has two prime functions: to spread knowledge and to increase knowledge. The first is done by teaching and by academics applying their knowledge, perhaps confidentially, to the problems encountered by outside bodies. The second must be totally open: knowledge to be increased must be shared.

And here lies the answer to Mr Sayeed's question (March 30) of why industry does not sponsor the research into ceramic superconductors. The problem is that if they did they would want to keep the knowledge to themselves for obvious commercial reasons.

This commercial secrecy is a hindrance to academic scholarship. It goes so far that I even have two friends working on the same materials who are unable to discuss their work with each other (or with anyone else) because of the limitations of their commercial contracts. So much for cross-fertilization and a community of scholars!

This is not to say that industrially relevant work has no part in academia. I am a chemist and find that I get a lot of inspiration from my undergraduate teaching from such work rather than from my academic research, but little of that industrial work can get out into the wider field of scholarship.

Unless we keep substantial disinterested funding of research in this country we will soon have 50 commercial research institutes and no universities.

Yours sincerely,
C. J. PEACOCK,
115 Main Street,
Warton, Carnforth, Lancashire.
From the President of the British Academy
Sir, Your summary (report, April 13) of my remarks on the brain drain gives a very misleading impression. I said that although three or four migrating swallows may not make an autumn, it rapidly becomes an autumn when they grow into a flock. I went on to say that the position was as serious in the humanities as in the natural sciences, and that it was severely aggravated by the freezing of vacancies which the present migration (unlike those of a generation ago) have left behind them.

Many instances could be given (in economics, "exotic" languages, international relations — especially Soviet studies) where the consequent depletion of our academic stock is already causing the gravest concern.

Yours faithfully,
RANDOLPH QUIRK, President,
The British Academy,
20-21 Cornwall Terrace, NW1,
April 13.

Making an exit

From Mr M. Riaz Wasan
Sir, Some of the new tube trains have semi-automatic doors which open manually and shut automatically. These doors, despite their obvious advantages in terms of passenger comfort and security, have not been designed for the disabled. Recently I saw a blind passenger who was unable to get out of the train and before I could rush to open the door the train was in motion.

Yours faithfully,
M. RIAZ HASAN,
23 Windsor Crescent,
Harrow, Middlesex,
April 7.

The agent and a part-exchange value on his house. Once the prerequisite legal enquiries and searches had been concluded contracts could be exchanged between the house buyer and the agent.

The hidden advantage for the house buyer would be that stamp duty might be avoided on the equality of exchange value which might, in many cases, be below the £30,000 duty threshold.

Aids emphasis on family values

From the Chairman of Family & Youth Concern and others
Sir, Now that the first phase of the Government's publicity campaign on Aids is over it is desirable that there should be some serious public debate about the general theme of the second phase which (it is understood) ministers are now preparing.

The first phase was based on the theme "safer sex", in which the primary emphasis was on the use of condoms without any discrimination as to the circumstances of the sexual act. Many commentators have made the point that this emphasis could be counter-productive in that it seemed to encourage, or at the least condone, every type of sexual experience.

Family & Youth Concern, in particular, regret this emphasis. On the other hand, the reluctance of ministers to take a "moral" line, especially when confronted by a wholly unprecedented situation, is understandable.

However, we believe that the Government now has no choice other than to base the second phase of public warnings in the media on the fundamental concept of the family. The Prime Minister and other political leaders have often spoken of the need to re-establish secure and stable marriage as the basis of family life and the upbringing of children. They surely can count on the strong support of "the silent majority" in explicit discouragement of promiscuous sexual relationships.

We therefore urge the ministers who are now planning the next phase to give a clear lead, especially to young people, on the threats to a healthy and stable society that sexual activity outside marriage poses. There is only one ultimate answer to Aids and that is lifelong faithful union. Let the Government have the courage to say so!

Yours sincerely,
S. ELLISON, Chairman,
Family & Youth Concern.
JOHN BONNAR, JOHN ELLIS,
AMBROSE KING,
REGINALD MURLEY,
J. H. PEEL,
JAMES S. SCOTT,
Family & Youth Concern,
Wicken,
Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire,
April 12.

Shares on TV

From Canon G. M. Smallwood
Sir, The Rolls-Royce share offer is, we are told, directed towards the institutions rather than to individuals. As the institutions know all about it already, I trust that Rolls-Royce will not waste vast sums of money on advertising, as we have seen happen with other privatisations. This will have the added advantage of sparing television viewers from being bored stiff watching continual repeats of the same advertisement.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM SMALLWOOD,
The Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Chad,
20 The Close,
Lichfield,
Staffordshire,
April 13.

Schoolboy boxing

From Mr Harold Francis
Sir, Your leader (April 4), Barbara Amiel's article (April 10) and numerous correspondents have failed to mention the contribution of the variable age of puberty to the risks of schoolboy boxing.

Puberty in the male is a process of virilisation resulting from the secretion of increasing amounts of testosterone by the testes and adrenal glands. This enhances muscular strength, aggression and physical stamina. Like all biological phenomena the age of puberty conforms to a natural frequency distribution curve.

The proponents of boxing may be able to justify pairing opponents on the basis of age and weight prior to 12 years and after 18 years but between these ages mismatches must occur from variations in the stage of virilisation. In the recent tragedy (report, April 1) the 14-year-old boy could well have been more advanced in puberty than his 15-year-old opponent, who died.

If "boys" from the right-hand half of the gaussian curve of puberty are to be protected from injury at the hands of "men" from the left half, pairing criteria will have to include testicular size and the extent of pubic and axillary hair growth.

Yours sincerely,
HAROLD FRANCIS,
Esmeralda,
Carnatic Road,
Liverpool,
Merseyside,
April 13.

The only flaw to this suggestion is, I suspect, that such a scheme might not be profitable for estate agents.

The suggestions by Mr T. P. Blenkins (April 9) to speed up transactions and reduce the likelihood of sales aborting are, in my opinion, departures from reality since a conveyancing chain, in the absence of the luxury of an open-ended bridging loan or bridging funds is tied to the speed of the slowest link in that chain.



ON THIS DAY

APRIL 21 1989

King Zog (1895-1961) departed with his Hungarian wife to Greece, on the Italian occupation of his country. Italian military rule was replaced in 1944 by a people's republic under Enver Haxha.

HOW ALBANIA SUCCUMBED

PATRIOTS WITHOUT LEADERS

A DIARY OF HOLY WEEK
The following extracts from a diary kept by a correspondent who recently left Albania illustrate the bewilderment of the Albanian population at the Italian invasion — a bewilderment which was shared by some of the invaders. They show that the Albanians people wished to resist, but were abandoned by their Government.

From a Correspondent lately in Albania

Valona, Palm Sunday, April 2 — A popular Albanian figure was told by the Italian Consul here that the people must make no trouble for the Italians would be landing. He reported this at Tirana. The Italian radio insisted that the discussion (in which the Italians pressed for a new treaty on lines unacceptable to King Zog) were taking their normal course and that Italy would respect Albanian independence.

In the afternoon... the Italian Air Force made a mass demonstration over Tirana, presumably to help the Albanians to make up their minds. We counted 43... So far from being intimidated the people of Tirana crowded to the squares... calling on the Government to resist. They also called for the release of the anti-Fascist Albanians who had been arrested as "Communists". Mehdi Frasheri, who was Prime Minister in 1935-36 in a Government regarded by Albanians as the best in recent times, but which only survived a year, emerged from his retirement... He invited the demonstrators, furious at the Italian show of force, to enrol as volunteers. Thousands signed their names... mainly youths — technical school students and others — and also peasants and working townspeople of all ages. The volunteers then formed into long columns with Albanian flags and marched towards the Palace. European clothes, both men and women, the peaked caps of the students, the short jackets, homespun trousers, and white felt shoes of peasants from the valleys and mountains all mingled in the columns stretching away down the streets as far as the eye could see. The marchers were eager, confident that they would be given arms, and perfectly self-disciplined...

THE LANDING
April 7 — Good Friday, now called Easter Friday by the Albanians — At 5.30 a.m. troops were landing in Durazzo Bay. They were being fired on by the Albanians, and the ships were shelling the town. The telephone was cut by shell-fire soon afterwards. Italian planes flew over the city dropping thousands of leaflets in Albanian which spoke of the venality of the Government, the age-long friendship of Italy, and the futility of resistance. Tirana was very still.

In the afternoon we heard that the Italian troops had landed simultaneously at four points along the coast and that the most serious resistance was at Durazzo. Here marines and troops disembarked on the wharf and advanced in close formation, expecting no resistance. When the Albanian machine-guns opened fire they were mown down. Twice they were driven back before the ships got into position and started shelling the town. The third landing was successful, and fierce hand-to-hand fighting broke out in the streets...

April 13 — When the Albanian "Constituent Assembly" met yesterday, ostensibly so that they could decide on a new Government and offer the Crown of Albania to the King of Italy, the *communiqué* given to the Press was clearly not the one intended for publication, for the edition containing it was immediately confiscated. The copy had been handed to the Press by mistake, for it showed the date April 10 and bore the signatures of the Italian Minister and Secretary of Legation, although it was supposed to be an Albanian Government statement issued on the 12th!

Everybody is asking why the Italians are really here. They were getting virtually all they could expect to get as it was. New airfields are being built at Durazzo, Valona, Scutari, &c., and the Tirana field is being doubled in size. Can all this be required to "restore order" in Albania?

Chirpy to the last
From Mr Eric Lowden
Sir, DJM's Nature Notes today, April 13, remind us that birds are clearing their throats for spring. I expect that serious students of birdsong will soon be abroad before dawn to record, in various parts of the country, the species to give the first chirp of the day and the exact time of the opening notes.

I suggest that an equally rewarding, and more comfortable, study would be to determine which cheerful songsters are the last to close down at night. In this neighbourhood *Turdus philomelos* [song thrush] will win on most evenings, carrying on at full power until long after sunset.

I wonder if this applies in other parts of the country? Yours faithfully,
ERIC LOWDEN,
42 Burke's Road,
Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E19 9XN



BOOKING KEY

* Seats available
* Returns only

THEATRE

LONDON

*** ANTHONY AND CLEOPATRA:** Staged for the first time at the National, Peter Hall directs Anthony Hopkins and Judi Dench. Sold out until June.

*** NATIONAL THEATRE (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (01-928 2252):** *Waterloo*, Mon 13th 7.30-9.45pm, Sat 8.30-10.45pm, matinee Sat 2.30-4.45pm, £25.50-£13.

*** BRIGITTE BACH MEMOIRS:** A small-scale production of a Broadway musical. Waves of emotion. Dorothy Tutin in an NT transfer.

*** ADELPHI THEATRE, Adelphi, WC2 (01-436 6404, 01-471 5233):** *Waterloo*, Mon-Fri 7.30-9.45pm, Sat 8.30-10.45pm, matinee Sat 2.30-4.45pm, £25.50-£13.

*** COURT IN THE ACT:** (See caption).

*** PHOENIX THEATRE, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-928 2252):** *Waterloo*, Mon-Fri 7.30-9.45pm, Sat 8.30-10.45pm, matinee Sat 2.30-4.45pm, £25.50-£13.

*** THE HENRY'S:** Michael Segal's production of Shakespeare's Henry plays with Michael Pennington as Prince Hal and Henry V and John Woodvine as Falstaff.

*** OLD VIC, Waterloo Road, SE1 (01-928 7616, 01-928 7617):** *Waterloo*, Mon-Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Wed 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 10.30am-1.30pm, Henry V part 1 Tues and Thurs 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 3-5pm, Henry V part 2 Wed 7.30-10.30pm, Fri 7.30-10.30pm, Sat 10.30am-1.30pm, £25.50-£13.

*** SPOOKHOUSE:** New play by author of *Torch Song* Trilogy set around a Coney Island ghost-train where a fortune teller and a waitress who struggle over a delinquent boy. Hampstead Theatre Club, Avenue Road, NW3 (01-722 8301), Tues-Sat 8-10pm, £5-10, £10-15, £15-20, £20-25, £25-30, £30-35, £35-40, £40-45, £45-50, £50-55, £55-60, £60-65, £65-70, £70-75, £75-80, £80-85, £85-90, £90-95, £95-100, £100-105, £105-110, £110-115, £115-120, £120-125, £125-130, £130-135, £135-140, £140-145, £145-150, £150-155, £155-160, £160-165, £165-170, £170-175, £175-180, £180-185, £185-190, £190-195, £195-200, £200-205, £205-210, £210-215, £215-220, £220-225, £225-230, £230-235, £235-240, £240-245, £245-250, £250-255, £255-260, £260-265, £265-270, £270-275, £275-280, £280-285, £285-290, £290-295, £295-300, £300-305, £305-310, £310-315, £315-320, £320-325, £325-330, £330-335, £335-340, £340-345, £345-350, £350-355, £355-360, £360-365, £365-370, £370-375, £375-380, £380-385, £385-390, £390-395, £395-400, £400-405, £405-410, £410-415, £415-420, £420-425, £425-430, £430-435, £435-440, £440-445, £445-450, £450-455, £455-460, £460-465, £465-470, £470-475, £475-480, £480-485, 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THE ARTS

The lost world

"I take pictures in my mind now", said Bert Hardy at the end of *Bert Hardy's World*, Channel 4's portrait of *Pictures Post's* most celebrated photo-journalist. His right eye is now permanently damaged after so many years thrust against the viewfinder and in retirement he rarely picks up a camera.

A sense of loss permeated the programme. Bert Hardy's world is now a lost world. The famous war photographs recorded brief, passing moments, brutal and blissful, and much of his best peacetime work was done in the slums of Glasgow and Liverpool and the terraced streets of Tiger Bay, which have enjoyed the mixed blessings of postwar redevelopment. Born into a poor London family, his sympathy for the underprivileged produced photographs which were beautiful without subsuming the dignity of his subjects, which depicted the squalor but also captured the humour and spirit.

The makers of the programme had unearthed a number of people who had been photographed by Hardy, including one of the two boys strutting out arm-in-arm in that celebrated picture he took in the Gorbals. Now a balding, middle-aged man, he stood beneath the crumbling tower blocks which replaced the slums where four of his siblings had died in infancy and reflected on the loss of the old sense of community and the lack of vision of the planners. This sentiment was endorsed by a number of those who were interviewed.

The loss of vision made most apparent by the programme, however, was that of Hardy's art, a loss which was emphasized by the large chunks of contemporary documentary which swamped our brief glimpses of the photographs. The still silence of his black and white photography produced not only much more powerful images but seemed socially more aware, to have found the heart of the matter, while the film, so full of words and colours made by those, no doubt, ideologically as well as technically better equipped, floundered in its abundance.

Andrew Hislop

Between respect and revulsion

John Russell Taylor reviews the major new exhibition of the work of Jacob Epstein at Leeds City Art Gallery

Which is preferable for an artist, universal opprobrium or universal respect? Certainly they can be equally blinding, but perhaps respect is the more stifling. Jacob Epstein has suffered from both, during his lifetime and since his death, and one would have to say that his reputation is in a sadder state now, because of the respect, than it ever was when he was the bad boy of sculpture, his every work reviled with a fury which leaves the "video nasty" debate looking like a model of sweet reasonableness. It is more than time that we took a good long look at his work, and that is precisely what the major show at Leeds City Art Gallery until June 21, and then at the Whitechapel Art Gallery from July 3, enables us to do.

There are inevitable limitations. A sculptor such as Epstein, so many of whose major works are immovably installed on public sites (and so many of the rest unobtainable for more petty reasons of weight and scale), finds himself in a rather similar position to an architect whose work has to be exhibited largely in *absentia*. Of course it would be wonderful if a study-tour could be attached to the show, so that we could see Oscar Wilde's tomb in Père Lachaise, or the large later works at Coventry and Llandaff Cathedral, or *Adam, Jacob and the Angel*, *Ecco Homo* and *Consummatus Est*. In London at least there is a wealth of Epstein, ranging in date from the mutilated BMA figures on what is now Zimbabwe House (1907) to the Bowster House Group (1959) dashing towards Hyde Park, and another major carving, *Lazarus*, will be added to the show at Whitechapel.

So, it goes without saying that the Leeds exhibition could do with the real presence of more major works — particularly more of the large bronzes, since with only the

Risen Christ of 1917-19 we cannot really judge their merits relative to the much better represented large carvings. A suspicion remains that, masterly though many of the portrait busts are, the big bronzes never quite achieve the coherence of the large carvings, but it would be good to be able to confirm or deny this on the spot. However, all carping apart, the fact remains that this is the best Epstein show we have ever had, or are perhaps likely to have, and if we cannot assess his achievement on this basis we shall never be able to do so.

What emerges very clearly is both the stature and the



A rare touch of whimsy in a putto door-handle for the Convent of the Child Jesus

variability of the artist. Obviously there is brilliant technique and a striking ability to evoke character in such portrait busts as the justly famed *Joseph Conrad* and *Vaughan Williams*, and it is possibly only a personal prejudice against portraiture that makes me feel they are necessarily of an inferior order of creation to works such as *Genesis*, *Maternity* or even the much smaller *Doves* (here present in two of the three versions). But I do not think I am alone in finding a curious split right down the middle of Epstein's output, between the carved work and the modelled, such as you do not feel in, say, Rodin's.

In the bronzes — except for the *Rock Drill* torso, which

always looks as though it should by rights have been carved — there seems to be a lowering of creative pressure, a tendency towards the superficially selling gesture rather than a deeper, more intense thinking-through of the project. It is tempting to blame Epstein's facility for this, but even that does not seem quite right, since it is another recurrent problem with the large bronzes and bronze groups that their more naturalistic elements are their least satisfactory: every now and then anatomical conviction is sacrificed for, apparently, no good or even bad formal reasons.

The real creative catalyst in Epstein's work must surely be accounted his meeting with the primitive — the show significantly reminds us that he was a very important and discriminating early collector of African and Oceanic sculpture, and he must also have been a perceptive observer of the Pre-Columbian and the *Romancosque*. Almost all the work which remains to the full its power to shock, amaze and move relates to this nexus of influences, right through from the Wilde tomb of 1909-12 to the TUC War Memorial of 1956-57. And almost all of these were carved: it is as though the sheer slog of wrestling with the varying intractability of stone had something to do with the power of the figures and groups hacked out of it.

This is on the whole an art without refinement (perhaps one of the reasons *Genesis* was found so shocking in its time was that it does seem, in its soapy marble perfection, almost slick), and works like *Night and Day* on the London Underground headquarters, or the relatively unfamiliar *Elemental* of 1932 (a tensely crouched figure in abjectness) or *Woman Possessed* of the same year (a recumbent figure in Hoghtonwood stone, her back arched in ecstasy) — both



A personal quality sometimes blurred elsewhere: Mask with Earrings (1916), a portrait of the artist's wife Margaret

in the show — achieve, along with *Consummatus Est* and *Jacob and the Angel* and *Lazarus*, an elemental power almost unmatched among sculptural images of the 20th century. Indeed, it is something that Henry Moore, for instance, can seldom if ever have set out to achieve in his altogether calmer, more philosophical art.

Of course, Epstein is sometimes less than titanic, and often disarmingly human. Many of his drawings unconnected with sculpture — mostly book illustrations — are very striking, and the show includes an amazing homeric composition, *We two boys together clinging*, from the sequence of drawings inspired by Whitman's *Calamus* which served to attract the attention of Shaw and (less surprisingly) Robert Ross when Epstein first arrived in England in 1905, and which could almost be by Klimt. His non-committed busts and heads of his wife and other favourite models have a personal quality sometimes

Music of the mountains

Richard Morrison finds the English Chamber Orchestra in Hungary on a most unusual mission...

British orchestras have travelled abroad on many bizarre missions, but the primary reason for the English Chamber Orchestra making its Hungarian debut will take some beating for originality. Quite simply, the 24 string players of the ECO were invited to the Budapest Spring Festival to play a concerto with a man blowing down a 12-foot-long piece of tubing. Connoisseurs call it the *alporn*.

The orchestra first encountered the instrument in Gstaad last year, when it accompanied József Molnár (who maintains his reputation as the world's foremost *alporn* exponent with some ease) in a Concerto rustico by Ferenc Farkas. Both soloist and composer are Hungarian-born, so Hungarian observers decided that this momentous meeting of music and agriculture simply had to be heard in the homeland. The British Council, keen to build on the success of its British Film Festival in Hungary last year and to encourage some British infiltration of the increasingly respected Budapest Spring Festival (now in its seventh year), offered to pay the orchestra's fees (it was already subsidising the appearance at the festival of the London Mime Theatre, which caused a sensation with its silent, hilarious version of *Romeo and Juliet*), and the Hungarians paid for travel and hotels.

It was not, perhaps, entirely coincidental that the appearance of the ECO and LMT in Hungary — both world-class British ensembles — came three weeks after the two countries signed a new cultural agreement. The British Council has been directing much energy towards Hungary, where there is comparative freedom of artistic expression and a seemingly inexhaustible thirst for English-language culture. Under this new agreement the British Council in Hungary will be given a status separate from the British Embassy, a step which has important practical as well as psychological implications.

So, what of the *alporn*? In tone it resembles a euphonium, without that instrument's mellifluous lyrical qualities: in scope it is hampered by being confined to the natural harmonic series, which it reproduces with intractably nonconformist intonation. Given these inherent problems, one should not be too harsh on Farkas's Concerto, which chugged along in sub-Hindemith style without bothering the listener with too many original ideas.



József Molnár, with alporn. The Budapest audience clearly enjoyed simply observing the alporn, and it is certainly monstrously impressive. Molnár stood where a normal woodwind section would sit, but the end of his instrument rested on the floor beside the conductor. It came as a surprise to learn he has even bigger ones at home.

Nevertheless, one was relieved that the "Angol Kamaraorkester" was not judged simply by its Farkas. Under James Judd's well-organized direction, the ECO gave a stylishly nuanced account of Prokofiev's *Sarcana*, introduced the Hungarians to the precocious perkiness of Britten's *Simple Symphony*, and exhibited the talents of its principal bassoonist, Robin O'Neill, in the rarely-heard but highly atmospheric *Cinque des Setas Noies* by Villa-Lobos. The orchestra now spends three months in every year abroad; the admiring comments it drew from Hungarian musicians here, on the "English refinement" of its string quality, are typical of the impression it leaves around the globe. Had the Hungarians been provided with an orchestra list, they might have been slightly surprised by the Czech, Polish, Spanish and German names it contains.

The ECO also performed in the ancient spa-town of Sopron, near the Austrian border, where the nine-year-old Liszt made his debut and Johann Strauss wrote an opera on his honeymoon. No Liszt or Strauss in this programme, however; instead, there was the first (and, one fears, the last) Hungarian performance of David Matthews's *Variations* for 24 solo strings on "Die nacht ist kommen". The work is highly resourceful in its use of contrasting textures and its gradual uncovering of the original Bach chorale, but one sensed that even this mildly astringent music was considered a little shocking by the audience. Perhaps Budapest should have heard it, and Sopron have enjoyed the *alporn* instead.

A bit old-fashioned?

Judith Cruickshank reports from Paris on the latest ballet of the controversial Maurice Béjart

Maurice Béjart has brought his company to the Théâtre Municipal de Paris for a five-week season. Rapturously received by his fervid band of Parisian admirers, the Ballet of the Twentieth Century nonetheless looks more than a little old-fashioned. Not that Béjart has abandoned any of the ingredients which have contributed to the mixture which has served him so well in the past.

His dancers, today as before, are well trained, energetic and clearly devoted. His choice of music is as eclectic as ever, the themes of his ballets as all-embracing and confused as in the past, and his choice of designers in the main both sure and fashionable. He has also added some distinguished guest stars for this season. Fernando Buñones is appearing in a creation — *Three studies for Alexander* — and for two special performances Marcia Haydée and Richard Cragun from Stuttgart, John Neumeier, director of the Hamburg Ballet, and Eric Vu An of the Paris Opéra, appeared with Buñones and Béjart's own dancers.

The opening programme consisted of the new ballet for Buñones, preceded by a reworking of *Light*, one of

Béjart's arena ballets first performed in 1981. *Light* combines the themes of Venice, San Francisco and St Francis, the last played almost inevitably by Jorge Donn in a beautifully cut robe with a veridical *décolletage* and a saintly expression. Just how the themes are meant to relate never became clear, nor what a Whirling Dervish and an American pioneer wife had to do with the proceedings, but there was an effective virtuoso duet for Xavier Fera and Tony Fabre and some thrilling entries for seven men dressed in the colours of the spectrum.

The role of *Light*, originally made for the enchanting Yoko Morishita, was danced by Lynn Charles, an American dancer who has joined Béjart's company this season. Small and strong, with short curly hair and striking features, Charles is an interesting dancer. But I found myself missing Morishita's wit and femininity, not to mention her fabulous technique, and Charles's unadorned, almost masculine style contrasted oddly with Donn's soft, ornamented plasticity in their duet.

One of Béjart's principal attributes is the manner in which he encourages



Fernando Buñones: fabulous technique

his dancers to grow, drawing from them hidden qualities and exposing hidden aspects of their personalities. So one had hoped for something special when he came to create a work for Fernando Buñones, one of the most gifted dancers of the day. But *Three studies for Alexander* turns out to be a sad mismatch, through which Buñones moves, dignified, self-possessed and showing his fabulous technique to best advantage in the few passages where he is, for what must be the thousandth time in Béjart's choreog-

raphy, a dancer dreaming at the barre... dreaming, we learn, of Alexander the Great, who is incarnated by Serge Campardon — a spectacular dancer and the very antithesis of Buñones's pure classicism, which seems to have left Béjart choreographically at a loss.

The music is a curious mix of African chants and a Shostakovich theme, and the costumes for the chorus of men are, I swear, among the most hideous ever seen.

Buñones appeared to better advantage in the *Greek Dances* which formed part of a special gala programme. This began with *Feminine Masculine*, a company work and almost one might say, a statement of Béjart's choreographic credo. The girls wore black leotards, pink tights and point shoes and moved carefully, gracefully but a little awkwardly like a pretty group of flamingos. The boys are bare-chested in white trousers, performing virtuoso steps to the full-throated applause of their companions seated around the stage.

But the entire evening was made worthwhile by John Neumeier and Marcia Haydée in Béjart's version of *The Chairs*. To the strains of *Tristan and Isolde* Neumeier declaims passages of Ionesco's text and Haydée, beautiful and sphinx-like, trips about, welcomes imaginary guests and rearranges the chairs. Finally she and Neumeier creep away into the darkness, a sad, crumbling old couple. This at last was Béjart at his unbeatable best — a master of the theatrical.

● The fortieth Aldeburgh Festival of Music and the Arts runs from June 12 to 28, with Stuart Bedford, Oliver Knussen and Murray Perahia sharing the title of Executive Artistic Director. The American composer, pianist and conductor Lukas Foss receives the first major retrospective of his work to be given anywhere, and world, European or British premieres include music by Carter and Henze.

● Natalia Makarova is to dance with London Festival Ballet during its season at the Coliseum from July 7 to 18. She will perform *Juliet*, for the first time, in Nureyev's *Romeo and Juliet*, and Tatiana in Cranko's *Oleg*.

CONCERT

Nikolai Petrov
Queen Elizabeth Hall

flamboyant, the notes were always allowed to speak for themselves, the artist quite properly acting as the medium, not the message.

Petrov began in relatively subdued manner, with two *Fantasies*, in E flat and C, by C.P.E. Bach, shaping their gestures, somewhat precious-sounding when played on a concert grand, with meticulous care and keeping the scale

of his tone modest. His instinctive sense of balance was also evident in Mozart's C minor *Fantasy*, K.475, which many another pianist would turn too hastily into something expansive and romantic. Not Petrov, who used the rich bass and crystalline upper registers of the Bösendorfer he played to maintain a sense of poise.

Yet he is, at the final reckoning, a full-bloodedly romantic pianist, and with Mendelssohn's F sharp minor *Fantasy*, Op. 28, the sound really began to sparkle and sing in turn, the emotions to ebb and flow freely, the atmosphere to mellow. For the seven *Fantasies* that constitute Brahms's Op. 116 piano pieces the contrasts of mood were more marked. Petrov stormed through the three works that Brahms labelled *Capriccios*, conjuring up the most vivid hues, while the four *Intermezzos* were positively coloured with a softer, subtler palette.

But the recital had to end with Liszt, and it duly did, discounting the *Fantasy* pieces by Schumann and Mendelssohn that Petrov gave as encores. The might that he put into Liszt's *Reminiscences from Don Juan*, officially described as a concert *Fantasy*, was matched only by his appetite for the sheer exuberant fun of it all.

Stephen Pettitt

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Send to: The Rt. Hon. Christopher Chataway, Chairman, ActionAid, Dept. 0420, c/o Midland Bank plc, Box 180, 52 Oxford Street, London W1A 1BG

☐ Please send me details of one child who needs my help. I enclose £792 as my first month's contribution ☐ or £95.00 as my first year's contribution ☐ (Tick appropriate box)

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☐ Please send me further details on sponsorship. Important: All cheques and postal orders should be made payable to ActionAid. Thank you.

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ActionAid Change a child's world... Become a Sponsor

Executive Editor
Kenneth FleetSTOCK MARKET
(Change on week)

FT 30 Share

1540.3 (+16.5)

FT-SE 100

1949.4 (+12.7)

Bargains

31735 (39100)

USM (Datastream)

163.12 (-0.74)

THE POUND
(Change on week)

US dollar

1.6300 (+0.0025)

W German mark

2.9511 (+0.0102)

Trade-weighted

72.4 (+0.3)

US NOTEBOOK

Important
signs
for moneyFrom Maxwell Newton
New York

The most important single factor in the monetary and economic situation today is the precipitous drop in the rate of money growth — confirmed by the March numbers.

In the year ended the fourth quarter 1983, M2 rose 14.4. In the year ended the fourth quarter 1984, by contrast, it rose only 5.5 as the Fed furiously backtracked to avert inflation.

This cut in the growth rate of M2, killed the economic recovery, raised interest rates 250-350 basis points in the first half of 1984 and then dumped interest rates in the second half to below early 1984 levels.

The Fed changed direction again, trying to avert a recession. In the years ended the fourth quarters of 1985 and 1986 respectively, M2 rose 8.8 and 8.5.

As inflation fell close to zero in 1986, these were strong "real" increases.

By the end of 1986 it was apparent the Fed was slowing a dead horse. Huge money growth was doing nothing for real economic growth. Since then, there has been a rigorous reduction in the rate of money growth. Between the fourth quarter of 1986 and March month, the annual growth rate of M2 has fallen to 5.1. Between January and March, the annual growth rate of M2 has fallen to 0.6 and that for M3 has fallen to 1.6.

The seasonally-adjusted total of commercial and industrial loans and commercial paper outstanding peaked in the week of January 28 at \$618 billion (\$381.5 billion). By the week of April 1, the total of these loans on a seasonally-adjusted basis had fallen to \$614 billion. This cessation of growth is another important sure sign that something very important is happening in US money.

Wall St report, page 22

RESULTS

TODAY — Interim: Cosalt, Final: Capital and Regional Properties, Edinburgh Investment Trust, EIS Group, London United Investments, TV-am.

TOMORROW — Interim: Keynote Investment Company, Jersey Electricity Company, Union Carbide Corporation, Final: APV Holdings, Laura Ashley Holdings, Ayrshire Metal Products, Bank of Scotland, Bank of Wales, Boase Massimi Pollitt, Claydon Properties, Densiron International, Ellis & Goldstein Holdings, Great Southern Group, International Business Companies, James Neill Holdings, Micro Focus Group, JT Parrish, Securities Trust of Scotland, WA Holdings.

THURSDAY — Interim: Chrysalis Group, Free State Consolidated Gold Mines, Kwik Save Group, Wm Low & Company, Orange Free State Investments, Share Drug Stores, Transvaal Group Gold Mining, Vaux Group, Welkom Gold Holdings, Whatman Reeve Angel, Final: Aberdeen Steak Houses Group, Austin Reed Group, East Rand Gold and Uranium Company, Etam, Guinness, Harlons Group, Liffeshaill Company, Petrocon Group, Platinium, Sunlight Service FRIDAY — Interim: Berry Trust, British Assets Trust, Equity & Law International Funds, Futura Holdings, Scottish Metropolitan Property, Final: Allebone & Sons, James Beattie, British Islands Airways, Clayton, Son & Co Holdings, Falcon Industries, Liberty, Molyneux Holdings, E Upton and Sons.

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Battle looms
on Dome sale£2.3bn Amoco takeover
'black day for Canada'

From John Best, Ottawa

Dome Petroleum of Calgary, Canada's third-largest oil producer and its second-largest producer of natural gas, which is in financial difficulties, has decided to sell out to Amoco Canada Petroleum for C\$5.1 billion (£2.35 billion).

The takeover, one of the largest in Canadian corporate history, was announced at the weekend after a meeting of Dome and Amoco executives in Chicago. Amoco Canada is a subsidiary of the Chicago-based Amoco Corporation.

The sale is certain to be politically controversial, with Canadian economic nationalists viewing it as a sellout of a key resource-based Canadian corporation to American capital.

Mr Edward Broadbent, leader of the left-wing New Democratic Party, has denounced the transaction as a "black day for Canada." It will be hotly debated when parliament resumes sitting next week.

The memorandum of agreement to sell to approval by the Conservative government, Dome shareholders, and the company's main creditors. Of Dome Petroleum's C\$6.3 billion debt, more than C\$3 billion is owed to Canadian banks.

Dome recorded a loss last year of C\$2.2 billion after writedowns, the largest loss ever absorbed by a Canadian company. But the company,

through federal energy programmes and income tax deferrals, has tax credits worth more than C\$2 billion.

Dome Petroleum has spent millions over the years in mostly futile exploration ventures in the Canadian Arctic.

Its present debt is largely the result of a series of takeovers of the Dome in the late 1970s including Dome's purchase of Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Company from Conoco of Houston, Texas.

Dome executives moved swiftly to close the deal with Amoco after turning down a C\$4.3 billion offer from

Oil risks 23

TransCanada Pipelines of Calgary. In a statement after the announcement, TransCanada said it had not given up its fight for Dome.

Another suitor rejected by Dome's board of directors was Imperial Oil of Toronto, in combination with Exxon Corporation of New York, which owns 70 per cent of Imperial.

According to its own figures, Dome is technically bankrupt, with assets of only C\$4.9 billion against the C\$6.3 billion debt. However, it has huge oil and gas holdings, including 2.7 million acres of producing property in Western Canada. Its oil

reserves last year were estimated at 228 million barrels and its gas reserves at 2.3 trillion cubic feet.

A spokesman for Amoco, Mr Donald Smith, said that Dome was "an excellent fit for our Canadian operations," in spite of its wobbly financial position. Amoco is already a partner with Dome in several projects.

On hearing of the Dome-Amoco deal, Canadian government officials summoned Amoco representatives to Ottawa for a meeting on Sunday to explain the "requirements" of Canadian agencies which will be involved in reviewing the transaction.

They are Investment Canada, which screens foreign takeovers to determine that they are in Canada's national interest, and the Bureau of Competition Policy.

Most analysts considered federal approval of the takeover almost a foregone conclusion, particularly in view of the intensive, free-trade negotiations now going on between Canada and the United States. The negotiations, which are approaching a decisive stage, were undertaken at the initiative of Mr Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister, and symbolize Mr Mulroney's passionate belief in the desirability of closer Canada-US economic ties.

St George's Hospital to
become five-star hotel

By Michael Tate

Plans have been submitted for the redevelopment of St George's Hospital at Hyde Park Corner in central London as a five-star hotel.

Grosvenor, which represents the interests of the Duke of Westminster, will acquire Imry's freehold on the northern half of the site. It will then grant a long leaseback to the property group, which will carry out the redevelopment.

A detailed planning application has been drawn up jointly by the Grosvenor Estate and Imry International, which have finally resolved the problems associated with their joint ownership of the 1.5-acre site.

The hotel, together with 127,000 square feet of offices on land behind the hospital,

for which planning permission exists already, would probably cost about £40 million. It will have some 150 suites and bedrooms and will be approximately two years to build.

The hospital, a Grade I listed building, has stood empty since it was closed by the Department of Health in 1980. Under an agreement, the freehold on the southern half of the site reverted to Grosvenor, its original owner.

In the ensuing years Grosvenor sought to acquire the northern half from the DHSS, but the two parties could not agree terms. Meanwhile the hospital building stood empty and the refurbishment that it needed urgently was delayed.

Then, in April last year,

Arbutnot Properties, a private company run by Mr Martin Myers, stepped in and bought the site for £10.75 million.

Arbutnot was subsequently injected into the quoted Imry Property in January of this year. Mr Myers, a chartered surveyor until 1983, became deputy chairman and chief executive and persuaded Mr David Davies, the former Hong Kong Land chief executive, to become chairman and to pump in £1.5 million of his own money.

Grosvenor said yesterday that the planning application had been submitted after consultation with Westminster City Council, English Heritage, the Royal Fine Art Commission and other parties.

'Thought gulf' between
Whitehall and industry

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The gulf between the thought processes of Whitehall civil servants and those of industrialists is revealed today in a new guide for businessmen published by the Confederation of British Industry.

The frustrations of industry, faced with what is perceived to be the widespread device of the "yes" man, are illustrated by Sir Humphrey Appleby of Yes, Prime Minister television fame, are to some extent misplaced by a lack of understanding, says the CBI.

But, conversely, the Civil Service has a different culture in which government officials are afraid of being offered bribes, are slow to change, and have little social intimacy

with politicians and journalists.

Mr Cyril Coffin, author of the *Working with Whitehall* guide and himself a retired civil servant, says the true civil servant does have a genuine desire to see closer relations with companies.

But he warns businessmen of the pitfalls in attempting to introduce some sociability into contacts with the faceless Whitehall army. Any entertainment offered should not be capable of being interpreted as a gift or reward for services.

Working with Whitehall, CBI Publication Sales Department, Centre Point, 103, New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU, £3.50.

Election fever boosts
market research firms

By Colin Narborough

The high election fever is giving the market research industry a big earnings boost. Some companies are even talking of a boom.

Not only is the increased number of Fleet Street newspaper titles helping mediademand for polls of voting intentions, but City interest, too, has been fired by the prospect of a complicated, three-cornered fight which faces the electorate.

In spite of the flip-flop in turnover which a likely election brings, there is little sign of any of the big poll-research companies going for a stock market flotation.

Political polls commissioned by the media, while



Mr Clayton Yeutter, US Trade Representative, pours a drink at the Tokyo talks yesterday

Japan shuns US on rice

From David Watts
Tokyo

Japan has declined an American request for bilateral talks on the opening of its market to rice imports but said it is ready to discuss it in the new round of talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Mr Mutsuki Kato, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, said Japan would explain why it had to maintain its ban on imported rice in the Uruguay round.

Although the US has been seeking an outlet for American rice in Japan for some time, it had until recently been prepared to deal with it only in the GATT round which will take up the issue of agricultural protectionism world-wide.

America is now clearly trying

ing to step up pressure on Japan by seeking direct, bilateral talks on extremely sensitive political issues for the Liberal Democratic Party which has always claimed that its rural and agricultural support was essential to its survival.

At their second and final round of negotiations yesterday Mr Kato and the US Secretary of Agriculture, Mr Richard Lyng, were joined by Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US Trade Representative.

The two men asked Japan to liberalize imports of beef and oranges by April of next year and promise to decontrol — in the near future — imports of 12 other agricultural items.

Both Mr Lyng and Mr Yeutter sought Tokyo's agreement that the new GATT round

should settle agricultural trade problems before other issues but Mr Kato declined.

Today Mr Yeutter starts two days of talks with the Minister of International Trade and Industry, Mr Hajime Tamura, on the United States' imposition of a 100 per cent import duty on \$300m (£185.9 million) worth of some classes of Japanese computers, television sets and power tools.

Mr Tamura has already called for the "swift withdrawal" of the levies.

A new survey from the Economic Planning Agency indicates that Japanese corporations are still heavily dependent upon exports despite the appreciation of the yen against the dollar.

Beazer stands firm on £80m US sale

By Michael Tate

CH Beazer Holdings, the Bath building group, will not follow Fisons and call off its £80 million share sale in the United States, despite mounting institutional opposition to the plan.

Large institutional shareholders, who hold about 20 per cent of the Beazer equity between them and are led by the Prudential, are understood to be unhappy about the proposed share placing because it denies them the

opportunity of applying for shares.

Fisons was last week forced to scrap proposals to raise £110 million through an overseas share placing in the face of similar opposition from its institutional shareholders.

To proceed with its share placing, the Beazer board needs 75 per cent of the votes cast by shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting.

Resistance from the institutions will "make life difficult", says Mr John Matthews of

County Natwest, which is advising Beazer. "But we see no reason for the company to abandon its proposals."

Instead Beazer will redouble its efforts to convince shareholders of the need for the placing. A letter will go out to shareholders later this week that will not only detail the reasons for the issue, but will also announce plans effectively to postpone the meeting for a week to give small shareholders more time to vote.

There is some bitterness in

Aids test
given
Queen's
Award

An Aids blood test developed by British scientists has received a Queen's Award for Technological Achievement.

The test was produced and introduced in only eight months because of the urgent need to screen blood donations. It is now widely used in Britain and has been adopted in Africa, Europe and the Far East. Approval is being sought for its use in the United States.

The award praises the "new standards of convenience, speed, safety and reliability" achieved by the test.

Wellcome Diagnostics, a subsidiary of the Wellcome Foundation, developed the test in collaboration with the Middlesex Hospital Medical School and the Institute of Cancer Research in London.

The hit musical *Cats*, now being performed in 15 countries and one of today's winners of the Queen's Awards for Export Achievement, is likely to be turned into what is certain to be a highly successful film.

Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber, who created the record-breaking musical, said he hoped to be talking to a director about the project and would soon be putting proposals to the board of his Really Useful Group, the public company which exploits his musicals and whose exporting achievements have won it the award.

The company is one of a record 154 recipients of Queen's Awards for Export and Technological Achievement, of which 52 have made a big success of exporting to Japan.

Mr Lloyd Webber, who is on holiday in the south of France, said: "We believe that when it finally ends *Cats* will have grossed as much as the film *ET*."

The awards recognize a diverse range of achievement. Jaguar Cars receives an award for the fourth successive year, while eight divisions of GEC and two each from ICI, Racal and British Aerospace, are honoured.

USM Review, page 25
Special Report, page 26



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GILT-EDGED

Secondly, the latest available Federal Open Market Committee minutes, for the February meeting, confirm the Fed's primary focus is still on the economy. Certainly, some of the recent data have been more encouraging with total, non-farm payroll employment rising by nearly 750,000 in the first three



but here the cause is mainly rising US money interest

well Montagu Gili-Edged,
respectively

By Colin Narbrough

tracts were traded on the CBOT in the year to last September — almost two-thirds of its business.

New York (Agencies) — Shares became mixed in nervous, mid-morning trading yesterday, after a slide in the bond market.

The dollar also came under pressure in the morning. The Dow Jones industrial average was up a point to 2,276.39, after jumping 16 points. McDonnell Douglas dipped by 2½ to 73. Santa Fe Southern rose by 1½ to 39¼.

[illegible]

Capitalization	Company	Price on Thursday	Weekly Change
10.55287m	Abelgard Group	995	+10
4.540119m	Abelgard Air Control	304	n/c
3.703038m	Abelgard	+120	n/c
4.487424m	Academy Commercial	56	-4
11.51246m	Concor Westch	834	-2
5.101180m	Edensprung Inc	785	+10
27.21600m	Edison Oil Interest	+48	+4
1.62263m	Ecovest	27	n/c
2.747867m	Pullwading Holdings	22	-8
7.251072m	Therm Holdings	504	n/c
4.837205m	Unit Group	1144	n/c

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES			
Market name	Current rates	Forward rates	
April 16	April 16	April 16	
New York	1.6255-1.6305	1.6255-1.6305	1 month
London	2.0418-2.0457	2.0418-2.0457	3 months
Frankfurt	2.0400-2.0430	2.0370-2.0400	1.141-1.05pm
Amsterdam	1.11-1.11 54	1.11-1.11 54	1.20-1.08pm
Paris	1.11-1.11 54	1.11-1.11 54	1.34-1.04pm
Brussels	1.11-1.11 54	1.11-1.11 54	44-33pm
Madrid	1.11-1.11 54	1.11-1.11 54	8-34pm
Barcelona	1.11-1.11 54	1.11-1.11 54	8-34pm
Frankfurt	1.11-1.11 54	1.11-1.11 54	8-34pm
Amsterdam	1.11-1.11 54	1.11-1.11 54	8-34pm
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II

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State Rates % Evening Same 10 Finance House 10% Discount Market Lanes % Overnight High: 3% Low 3 Week (last): 3% Freight Bills (Discount %) 1 month 3% 3 month 3% 6 month 3% 9 month 3% Wholesale Bank Bills (Discount %)	Local Authority Bonds (%) 1 month 10 1/2-11 1/2 3 month 10-9% 9 month 9 1/2-10 1/2 Sterling CDs (%) 1 month 9 1/2-9% 3 month 8 1/2-9 1/2 Dollar CDs (%) 1 month 6.75-6.85 3 month 6.55-6.60 12 month 6.25-6.30
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LENDING RATES

ASB	10.00%
Adam & Company	10.00%
BCCI	10.00%
Onbank Savings	12.45%
Consolidated Crnt	10.00%
Co-operative Bank	10.00%
C. Hoare & Co	10.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	10.00%
Lloyds Bank	10.00%
Nat Westminister	10.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	10.00%
TSB	10.00%
Citibank N.A.	10.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

**The 149th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of MEMBERS of
THE SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION**
will be held on **TUESDAY 19th May, 1987** at **2.15pm**
in the **HEAD OFFICE,**
6 ST. ANDREW SQUARE, EDINBURGH EH2 2YA

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Doeflex ready for SE debut

By John Bell, City Editor

Doeflex Industries, the company which pioneered the compounding of black vinyl for long-playing records in the Fifties, is to seek a stock market quotation later this week.

It plans a full listing via a placing of about 30 per cent of its equity which will be arranged by Lazards, the merchant bank.

Phillips & Drew, the stockbroker, will be involved with the issue.

Mr Richard Bickerton, the chairman, and Mr Colin Eccles, the managing director, led a £1.2 million management buyout from the privately-owned Batchelor Holdings in 1980.

CIN Industrial Investments, the development capital arm of the Coal Board pension funds, was one of the principal backers of the buyout.

The flotation is expected to put an overall value on Doeflex of approximately £10 million.

The company's business has since expanded well beyond

its role as a supplier to the record industry.

Mr Eccles said: "It now accounts for less than 15 per cent of turnover."

About 46 per cent of last year's £13 million sales arose from the compounding of PVC polymers.

Manufacture of thermoplastic sheeting contributed 40 per cent of sales.

Most of the remainder came from coatings and adhesives for the shoe industry, much of which is exported.

Doeflex recently added the distribution of bulk polymers to its activities.

The foundations for much of the recent rapid growth, approximately 25 per cent a year, arose after leading manufacturing groups decided to rationalize or contract their operations in PVC compounding.

Mr Eccles said: "We decided to go for a much bigger share of this £100 million market in the UK."

He describes Doeflex as a

specialist niche business in this area.

The company has developed polymer technology which enables basic raw materials to be processed to specific applications in many different industries.

The final users of polymer require special colours, finishes and strengths.

Mr Eccles says: "The bulk producers, who are mostly large chemicals companies, are not in this business at all or find it difficult to meet dozens of different user specifications."

Most of Doeflex's compounds are used to manufacture extrusions that are used in the building, vehicle, packaging, domestic appliance and various other industries.

Market share has expanded rapidly over the past three years and profits, which were £347,000 in 1982, reached £1.14 million last year.

Doeflex is embarking on a second phase of heavy capital investment which involves two new plants.



A £10 million success story: Richard Bickerton, seated, with Colin Eccles and executive director Tom Durkin, right

ANALYSIS

Dangers lurking in Chinese waters

The risks inherent in the search for oil are illustrated nowhere better than offshore China.

Hopes of big discoveries, when the oil price was above \$30 a barrel, created an uneasy scramble for acreage by the world's oil companies, great and small.

The Chinese, mindful of the legendary rapaciousness of the oil fraternity, engaged the Norwegians to help them develop a taxation system designed to cream off as much of the profits from the oil produced as would be consistent with encouraging their development.

Five years on, the oil price has collapsed and the oil companies have failed to discover anything which is other than marginally viable. Meanwhile, the much-chastened Chinese government is trying to find ways of making its tax system less onerous.

As a result of drilling in the first round contract areas, only two small discoveries have been made which could have commercial value. Xijiang 24-3 (operated by Phillips Petroleum and Shell) and Huizhou 21-1 (operated by AGIP, Chevron and Texaco). These are both in the Pearl River Basin, about 90 miles south of Hong Kong.

An application to develop Xijiang 24-3, which could contain between 30 and 60 million barrels of oil, was lodged with the Chinese authorities last autumn. But even if it is as big as 50 million barrels of recoverable



oil, and an oil price of \$25 a barrel is assumed for 1992 when the field could be expected to come on stream, the field only just exceeds the hurdle rate of return of 20 per cent, according to Mr Mark Stenner, oil analyst at Wood Mackenzie. This is the rate of

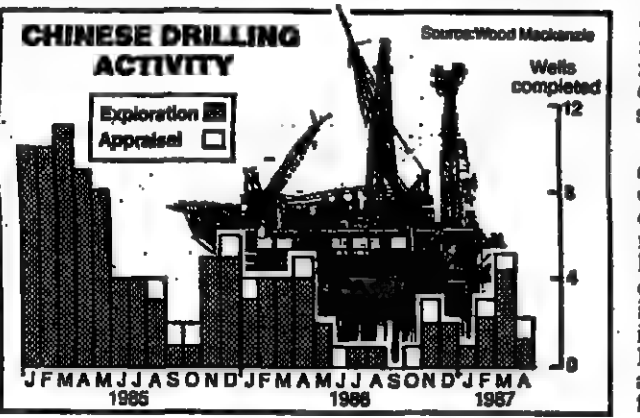
return required by the oil companies to compensate them for the risk of developing. And in such an unproven area as China, the hurdle rate may well be higher.

The Chinese have made some modifications to their tax system for discoveries

made under the second round of concession awards. But they have not been generous, and they have failed to encourage newcomers to try their luck in Chinese waters.

Although it seems that the Chinese are prepared to haggle over the terms to encourage development, the second round regime has a very minor impact on the viability of the small fields discovered so far.

After what has been a fairly determined effort by the big companies — BP alone is estimated to have spent \$80 million (£50 million) on dry holes — the exploration effort offshore China is consolidated into a few companies exploring one small area of the Pearl River Basin (excluding some activity in the Yellow Sea further north).



Oil explorers hit snags

It was with much excitement that the international oil industry accepted an invitation from the Chinese to explore in two main offshore areas, the Yellow Sea and the South China Sea.

Of the two, the Yellow Sea was thought to have fewer prospects. As a result, there has been less drilling there and the region has lived up to expectations. No oil has been found.

In the South China Sea, a

few oil discoveries have been made and there is one potentially commercial gas field. But the verdict of the industry is that there are no oilfields of significant proportions.

Most of the six or so finds that have been made are clustered in a relatively small part of the eastern Pearl Basin.

Only two of these appear to have commercial potential, and even then, some heroic assumptions have to be made about the oil price level in the

early 1990s. In addition, the Chinese will have to make some concessions on the tax system.

This disappointment has led to a fall-off in drilling activity, as the chart shows. The pick-up in activity in 1987 is due to drilling on the recent second round of awards and is concentrated in the parts of the eastern Pearl River Basin where some success has already been encountered.

Seeing double on the board

The multi-millionaire Richardson twins — born into a terraced house in Dudley, West Midlands, 57 years ago — will be moving further into the public arena today with their appointment on to the board of the Manchester merchant bank Burns Anderson as non-executive directors. The twins, Don and Roy, already own 51 per cent of Burns Anderson, but after one or two preliminary boardroom tussles, I gather they have assured its senior managers that they can stay. Their other quoted vehicle is Regentrest, the old Slater Walker Laganbale property vehicle, in which they have a 41 per cent stake. But, in keeping with their publicity-seeking image within the property world, most of their business is still conducted privately through their Richardson Development vehicle. It owns the £250 million Merry Hill shopping centre and industrial park in Dudley and is in talks with Wolverhampton Race Course to build a similar scheme there — moving the race course to a new all-weather track and splitting the proceeds 50-50 with the course owners.

More and more new hotels, it seems, include rooms that are sound-proofed. An American businessman staying in one of them found it so claustrophobic that he called room service: "Send up some sound!"

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Trust the TSB

It seems that whatever the TSB does to attempt to appease its sometimes hostile Scottish shareholders, it can't help but put its foot in it. In an attempt to calm the troubled waters it has hired the Scottish Exhibition Centre in Glasgow for its first annual meeting on Friday, Canny Scots, aware that this will probably be the first and last time that the meeting is held

anywhere but London, are determined to attend. But the meeting co-incides with that other popular day out on the Scottish investors' calendar — the Britoil annual meeting, which is being held at exactly the same time, more than a mile away in Glasgow city centre. The Britoil beanos has, I'm told, been held on the last Friday in April since time began.

Watch out

If you are thinking of starting a neighbourhood watch scheme, don't pin a membership register to the door of the hall where the inaugural meeting is to be held. That is what Sunleigh Electronics chairman Tony Merryweather and his wife Pauline did and, while they were at the meeting with their local crime prevention officer, their Huddersfield home was burgled. Their next-door neighbour, who had accompanied them to the meeting, also suffered a break-in. "We had invited some of our friends back for a drink, but arrived to find a window forced and jewellery worth some £4,000 missing," said Merryweather. "I think someone had taken a peek at the neighbourhood watch list, and knew we would be out." Always able to look on the brighter side of such misfortunes, Merryweather

laughed and said: "There was nothing we could do but hold a burglary party."



"I'm worried about young Justin — plays Monopoly with himself under six slightly different names"

Partying afloat

If Sir Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House, is a little hard of hearing towards the end of next week, he will at least have good cause. His company's floating flagship, the QE2, returns triumphantly to Southampton from her £110 million German refit next Tuesday, and will, the very next day, be the venue for a party for 500 Hampshire schoolchildren. The teenyboppers will board in time for breakfast and sail across the Solent to the Isle of Wight, where they will be joined by the Princess of Wales for the return journey, accompanied by a display of RAF Harrier jets and a Concorde fly-past.

"The QE2 is 18 years old and children in Southampton have seen her coming and going all their lives but most of them have never been on board," says a spokesman for Cunard. "We thought it would be nice if they were the first to see her after her refit — it will be the biggest children's party afloat ever." The refit included new engines, a new designer shopping mall and 20 miles of new carpet.

Even the all-powerful US government has been caught out by the collapse of arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi's billion-dollar empire. The Energy Department was left to fork out the \$67.4 million needed to finish an ethanol production plant in Louisiana built by Agrifuels Refining, a company owned by a subsidiary of Triad, Khashoggi's master company which has now filed for bankruptcy.

Carol Leonard

COMMENT

Time to work together on takeover policy

In 1986, takeover bids totalled some £12 billion, about half the nation's rate of investment in plant and machinery. Public concern has ranged from the shop floor to the Court of the Bank of England, covering anything from research and development in industry to dirty dealings in the City.

When the natives are restless and you do not know what to do, any competent administrator will advise a thorough, high-level inquiry. By this time-honoured process, the clamour produced not one but two long-running inquiries, which are now beginning to reach the meat course.

In the private sector, the CBI set up its City-industry taskforce to improve relations, after an unexpectedly bitter debate at last year's CBI conference. It has met only twice so far, but will consider a series of papers on specific issues during the coming months. Its chairman, David Nickson, the president of the CBI, must then report results to conference in November.

In Whitehall, an inquiry into competition policy under Hans Liesner, DTI deputy secretary, was beefed up in some confusion last June to give priority to the vetting of mergers. Its report could well wait on the election.

Mr Liesner's ideas may not square with the Tebbit guidelines, restricting merger investigations primarily to competition issues. Back in 1979, he recommended switching to a neutral view of mergers, rather than trusting the market unless the specific effects were deemed to be against the public interest. That view is now backed by Sir Gordon Bonnie, the director-general of Fair Trading, who repeats it today in an article in the *Lloyds Bank Review*.

The most intriguing part of these two exercises, however, is that they are running in parallel. For they represent competing approaches to the problem: public policy or private arrangement?

This assumes there actually is a problem. Economists have been suspicious of combinations ever since Adam Smith. But academics have now hit on the concept of the market for corporate control. Instead of firms competing to sell and grow, driving the less efficient out of business, financiers compete for control of assets, driving the less efficient out of the boardroom. Hence takeovers are the tool for improving returns on assets.

In reality, it is a most imperfect market, and not simply due to bureaucrats. Most hostile takeovers have financial motives unrelated to underlying businesses — tax efficiency, debt/equity replacement or the need to exploit higher share ratings than existing businesses justify. Some bidders want to buy into new markets, others need to eat to avoid being eaten.

Carol Ferguson

The bidder has replaced the shareholder as the discipline on managers. But in the process too much emphasis has now been placed on corporate activity to shuffle the assets around, at the expense of riskier investment, product development and expansion.

The finely-balanced CBI taskforce does not, at this stage, seem likely to challenge the powerful financial market forces promoting the takeover industry. It would certainly help companies to increase City appreciation of their long-term prospects by explaining themselves and disclosing research and development spending. Possible pleas for changed behaviour by institutional managers and pension fund trustees seem less promising, given the competitive drive for short-term performance and comparison.

Demands for more non-executive directors will not make much difference, so long as they are independent. Discipline on managers could be shifted back from the share market to the boardroom if non-executive directors spoke for the big shareholders. But neither side is anxious for that.

Back in Whitehall, Mr Liesner's review could usefully reassess the case for using the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in other areas where the public interest clearly differs from that of shareholders — for instance on regional policy. Although Sir Gordon doubts the "hidden hand" of the stock market, however, there is no more reason today than there ever was to think Whitehall or the commission can make better commercial judgements. And the commission's case-by-case approach precludes its use to fight the ill effects of excessive takeover activity in aggregate.

A better approach would be to change the structure in which the takeover industry operates, so as to shift the odds back towards the defending company in takeover battles, without removing market discipline. This would require a number of coordinated moves such as:

- Changing the City Takeover Code to give the defence the last word and to limit cash market purchases to 20 per cent, adding to uncertainty for arbitrageurs.

- Tightening up merger accounting, for instance to avoid big writedowns before the bought company comes into its new owner's accounts.

- Accelerating merger investigations but referring many more, including conglomerate purchases of companies with monopoly positions.

But any such series of moves would require co-ordination between Whitehall, companies and the City, not committees running on different parallel lines.

Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor



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7,380 lbs B&T (net)	486	+5	23.4	4
22.5 lbs Carrot	120	-1		
629.3 lbs Rosemary 'B'	245	-17	10.2	3

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend c Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip o share split t Tax-free No significant data

USM REVIEW

Exports feedback earns award for Soundtracs

What do Five Star, Judy Tzuke, Roger Whittaker and Swedish Radio have in common? The answer is Soundtracs, the south London electronic sound processing specialist quoted on the USM.

Soundtracs, which started in 1973, makes consoles for theatres, recording studios, broadcasting, post-production and live sound use and it has been so successful that it has just received its second Queen's Award for Exports.

This award — the first was in 1984 — comes after the company sustained exports of audio-mixing consoles at 85 per cent of production, with the consoles going to more than 40 countries.

Mr Todd Wells, the chairman, who trained in electronic warfare, attributes part of the company's export success to its improved image since its USM flotation.

Sales are running at more than £3 million a year and export sales rose by 43 per cent last year. In the United States sales rose by 58 per cent.

The company's shares, placed at 40p each, stand at 58p.

Spong Manufacturing, a subsidiary of quoted Spong



Toast to triumph: Spong Manufacturing's Stephen Barclay

Holdings, is another USM company to receive a Queen's Award for Export Achievement.

This was for its plastic Vinicool wine cooler which keeps bottled drinks cool for hours without ice. The "secret" ingredient is the injection of moulded "double-glazed" insulation into plastic.

Vinicool was bought by

Spong from its bankrupt parent-holder in 1985 for just £1 — probably one of the best deals Stephen Barclay, the chairman, ever negotiated.

Last year Spong won a Design Council Award for Logic, a range of table and patioware.

Carol Leonard

Mayborn likely to hit target

For a man with impeccable City connections, Mr Michael Samuel has attracted remarkably little publicity to his Dylon clothing dyes group, Mayborn.

Floated on to the Unlisted Securities Market on December 22 — the last stock market newcomer of 1986 — its shares have since risen comfortably

above their placing price of 102p to 141p at close of business on Thursday.

The flotation was handled by Hill Samuel, Mr Samuel, son of Lord Bearsted, is a direct descendant of the founder of the merchant bank.

The company's first set of figures since its flotation — for the year to end-December —

are being published tomorrow and should not disappoint.

With its year-end just eight days after its flotation, the forecast made in its prospectus ought to be fairly accurate.

Mayborn is expected to achieve its forecast pretax profit figure of £2.3 million, against £1.49 million last time.



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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS
CONTINUE ON PAGE 32

THE QUEEN'S AWARDS

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT
By Edward Townsend
Industrial CorrespondentLeaders
in export
success

The following companies have been granted the Queen's Award for exports.

Abekas Video Systems, Reading, Berkshire: manufacturer of digital television equipment.

Process Systems Division of Air Products, Watton-on-Thames, Surrey: exports process plant and associated equipment for the production of industrial gases.

Ajax Magnethermic (UK), Oxford, Surrey: producer of melting and heating equipment for metal processing industries.

Scunthorpe Rod Mill Division of Allied Steel and Wire, South Humberstone: exporter of steel wire rod in coils.

Ambassador Press, St Albans, Hertfordshire: provider of a full printing and international mailing service for magazines, brochures, catalogues and publicity material.

Amersham International, Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire: exporter of research chemicals, medical diagnostic products and industrial requisites.

Anson, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear: producer of flowline equipment for the oil and petrochemical industries.

Apollo Fire Detectors, Havant, Hampshire: developer and manufacturer of fire detection devices.

Ayala-Abbott & Butters, Needham Market, Suffolk: design, construction and fitting out of interiors for public buildings.

Babydiner, Dunfermline, Fife: manufacturer of a range of child care products.

BEC Mobility, Brierty Hill, West Midlands: manufacturer of electric wheelchairs and scooters for the disabled.

'Bermuda' by Espesha, London: producer of dresses, skirts and blouses.

Birchwood Boat International, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire: manufacturer of luxury motor cruisers.

Bridport-Goadry, Bridport, Dorset: producers of a wide range of nets for land, sea and air use.

Continued on next page

Battle honours for business

The Queen today honoured a record 154 British companies with awards for export and technological achievement, an accolade which after 22 years remains the country's premier industrial prize.

While knighthoods are much sought after by captains of industry and are dispensed as a result of personal and political judgement, the Queen's Award is a recognition of collective achievement and is decided according to a strict set of criteria.

This is reflected in the diverse character of the recipients, from minuscule companies to giant enterprises, from the most humble inventor to a band of government scientists. A scheme that has had mixed fortunes, it was launched during the heady days of the 1960s by the Labour government of Harold Wilson when the "white heat of technology" was supposed to be the driving industrial force.

Since then it has undergone depression caused by the first oil crisis in the early 1970s, booming interest from applicants later in the decade and another big dip in the early 1980s.

This year, through there were only 1,071 applicants — the lowest level for three years — the Queen's Award advisory committee to the Prime Minister said the standard was of such high quality that more awards were justified.

Once again the export award winners come from all regions of the kingdom: cottage industry producers in Scotland of high chairs and potties, industrial gas process plant makers in Surrey, high-technology laser-makers in Oxford, the Royal Mint in Mid-Glamorgan, a Cheshire pyjama producer, a veterinary pharmaceuticals producer in Northern Ireland and a maker of luxury powerboats in Dorset.

In the technological achievement category, the BBC and the Ministry of Defence

are award winners for highly sophisticated developments. But there is also recognition of a new dough mixer for bread-making and the Wellcome Foundation's rapidly developed Aids test kit.

The value of the award, whether for export or technology, and its morale-boosting impact is summed up by Brian Bolly, managing director of the Really Useful Group, which produces the highly exportable musicals of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice: "Frankly we are thrilled and greatly honoured; we will be sharing a drink with everyone in the company, from the stage-door keeper at the Palace Theatre in London to the board of directors."

Since the award scheme was begun in 1966, after recommendations of a special committee chaired by the Duke of Edinburgh, 27,859 companies have sought the honour. Unlike personal honours, the Queen's Award has to be applied for — and the criteria are strict.

The awards reflect business achievements for export and technology, and after 22 years remain the country's premier industrial prize

Queen's Award has to be applied for — and the criteria are strict.

Many companies, while egged on by trade associations and others think they will not have a sufficiently spectacular overseas sales record or new invention to warrant the time spent filling in the complicated application form.

But it has now built up an impressive list of winners — like those of every year, will value it greatly for the five years they are allowed to display it. And while the big companies like GEC and Royal deservedly win award after award, it is often the small firms that catch the eye. This year is no exception.

They include, as an export award winner, Artistic Treasures of Richmond, a china, glass and giftware shop opened 10 years ago by the president of the local chamber of trade, David Nagli, and his wife and a dedicated band of seven part-time staff. The company, which aims itself at well-heeled tourists, has built up turnover to £430,000, of which 75 per cent is exported. He recently sold £5,000 worth



Winning fashion: above, the Pink Soda (UK) accessory marketing team of London — Robert Rose, designer Mandy Martin and founder David Solomon — had a turnover of £2.5 million last year. Right, David and Marilyn Nagli's giftware shop at Richmond, Surrey, produced £430,000, mostly from exports

of paperweights to a customer in Saudi Arabia.

Another success story comes from Dunfermline in Fife where 36-year-old Peter Hart and his wife, Gill, have built up the Babydiner child-care products company into a world exporter in five years, selling their wares throughout western Europe, Canada, Australia and Singapore and the United States. It was a case of liking the product so much they bought the company.

Their high chairs have now been supplemented by folding travel cots previously produced by a Swiss company they bought. The company, which now employs 50 people,

has seen its turnover grow from £60,000 to £100,000 a month with exports accounting for 84 per cent.

Expertise in selling high-fashion accessories to many countries, including Japan, has led to an award for Pink Soda (UK), a small company in London formed five years ago by David Solomon, an advertising executive and his partner, Robert Rose, a former city insurance broker.

The firm markets a range of British-made co-ordinated accessories. Turnover last year was £2.5 million, of which nearly 80 per cent came from overseas. So successful has the range been in Japan that a

rival domestic company has been set up, calling itself Red Soda and selling exact copies of the originals, said Mr Solomon.

On a grander scale, the largest company to win an export award this year is IBM United Kingdom Holdings for its continued level of exports of main frame computers, desk-top computers and peripherals to Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Amersham International is the only company to win both awards this year, while others including the Wellcome Foundation, and the Prestwick works of British Aerospace are

celebrating hat-tricks of awards.

The smallest company to win an award is Norris Biomedical (1980) of Basingstoke, with just three employees. It produces and exports through Europe, North America and Australia enzymes and clinical diagnostic test kits used on automated blood serum analysers and made from the relatively worthless material of maize leaves.

In the technology category, a joint award goes to GEC Avionics and the Royal Aircraft Establishment for a night-attack system allowing military aircraft to carry out ground-attack operations us-

ing daylight flying techniques.

It combines forward-looking infra-red sensors, night-vision goggles, head-up displays and compatible cockpit illumination.

The development increases operational effectiveness by 40 per cent and is praised for creating a new market, having been ordered for seven aircraft types in the US, three in the UK, and one in Holland.

A technology award also goes to Nimbus Records of Monmouth in Gwent, whose suite for producing compact discs is a tenth of the cost of buying a system from the overseas originators of CD.



The export breakthrough.

FOCUS

THE QUEEN'S AWARDS/2

From previous page

The Hatfield unit of the Civil Aircraft Division of British Aerospace, Hertfordshire: manufacturer of the BAe 146 airliner.

The Prestwick unit of the Civil Aircraft Division of British Aerospace, Ayrshire: manufacturer of the BAe Jetstream 31 regional airliner.

Baro Happold, Bath, Avon: engineering consultants for the design of buildings and related infrastructure.

Cambridge University Press, Cambridge: printers and publishers for 400 years producing numerous learned and scientific journals.

Camtec (Wild Country), Eym, Sheffield: manufacturers of specialized climbing and mountaineering equipment.

Central Independent Television, Birmingham: exporter of television programmes to 100 countries.

Chadwick-Healey, Cambridge: producer of specialist academic research publications produced on microfiche and microfilm.

Claridge Mills, Selkirk, Scotland: exporter of fine fabrics and scarves, shawls and rugs.

J Comfort and Company, London: producer of men's ties, scarves and dressing gowns.

Conoco, London: producer of petroleum products.

Cunard Line, London: operator of the QE2 and six other cruise liners.

Dean Warburg, London: UK office for overseas department stores, speciality stores and wholesalers.

Dearden Davis Associates, Hounslow, Middlesex: manufacturer of mixing consoles for professional audio recording, broadcast and live sound applications.

Douglas Anjet, Cambridge: producer of ink jets of printing systems putting consumer information on retail products.

Dowling Developments, Ilminster, Somerset: manufacturer of acceleration tubes for the control of charged particles.

Druck, Groby, Leicestershire: manufacturer of electronic pressure measuring devices.

The Engineering Dept of Dussek Campbell, Crayford, Kent: producer of machines for filling power and telephone cables for insulation purposes and for protection against water.

Edison Circuits, Bingley, West Yorkshire: manufacturer of circlips for the motor vehicle and engineering industries.

The exporters

Envelopes International, Woodford Green, Essex: manufacturer of waterproof, tearproof, rotproof, acidproof, lightweight, lint-free and anti-static envelopes.

Eurowest Bar, Loughborough, Leicestershire: manufacturer of continuously cast iron bar.

Femcare, Basford, Nottingham: manufacturer of surgical devices mostly for female sterilisation.

Ferrymasters, Altrincham, Cheshire: provider of door-to-door transport services to Europe and Scandinavia.

The Airborne Display Division of GEC Avionics, Rochester, Kent: manufacturer of computer-driven electronic display systems for aircraft.

GEC Turbine Generators, Rugby, Warwickshire: manufacturers of steam turbines and generators for fossil fired and nuclear power stations.

GR-Stein Refractories, Sheffield: producer of refractory materials.

Gandalf Digital Communications, Warrington, Lancashire: manufacturer of data communication and information network equipment for telecommunications.

Gracefern (Oakwood Design), Letchworth, Hertfordshire: producer of machinery for finishing plastic bank, credit and security cards.

H & S Aviation, Portsmouth: carries out overhaul and repair of aircraft engines, propellers and components.

J M Heaford, Altrincham, Cheshire: producer of testing and other support machines for the printing and engraving industries.

Heat Trace, Stockport, Cheshire: manufacturer of electric flexible heating cables and tapes for pipeline heating and associated electronic control and monitoring equipment.

Henri-Lloyd, Worsley, Manchester: manufacturer of protective clothing and sportswear for yachting and other outdoor pursuits.

Historic House Hotels, London: owner of Bodygallen Hall, Llandudno, and Middlethorpe Hall, York.

Hozelock-ASL, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire: manufacturer of garden equipment including lawn sprinklers, hose-couplings and pressure sprayers.

Hewlett-Packard, Wokingham, Berkshire: manufacturer of test and measuring equipment for telecommunications

and computer peripherals.

Domnick Hunter Filters, Birtley, Co Durham: producer of filtration equipment for sterilization of air, gas and liquids.

Healthcare Division of Humble Technology, Luton, Bedfordshire: manufacturer of ultrasonic and pneumatic medical equipment for hospitals, clinics and homecare.

IAD (UK), Worthing, Sussex: provider of design and tooling engineering, styling, computer aided design and prototype building services for the automotive and aircraft industries.

IBM United Kingdom Holdings, Portsmouth: exporter of information handling equipment.

The Catalysts and Technology Licensing Business Group of the Chemicals and Polymers Group of ICI, Billingham, Cleveland: producer of catalysts for ammonia, methanol and hydrogen production.

IMI Radiators, Shipley, West Yorkshire: manufacturer of heat exchangers such as radiators, intercoolers and air conditioners.

L K Tool Company, Castle Donnington, Derbyshire: designer and manufacturer of coordinate measuring machines for use with machine tools.

Link Analytical, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire: manufacturer of computer-based X-ray material analysers.

Lydiatest, London: provider of enhanced telecommunications services.

Mabey & Johnson, Reading, Berkshire: producer of panel bridges for civilian and emergency use.

Peter MacArthur & Company, Hamilton, Strathclyde: manufacturer of woollen and worsted fabrics.

Manesty Machines, Speke, Liverpool: producer of pharmaceutical tablet-making machines.

Marchem, Stockton-on-Tees, Tyne and Wear: producer of chemicals for pharmaceutical, agricultural, photographic and other purposes.

Marcon Instruments, St Albans, Hertfordshire: designer and manufacturer of electronic measuring instruments.

Masterfill, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire: manufacturer of volumetric filling machines.

Mediscus Products, Wareham, Dorset: manufacturers of a specialized medical bed.

Metabridge, Bilston, West Midlands: producer of steel abrasives used in blast cleaning and other surface treatment processes.

Mitchell Cotts Mining Equipment, Penkridge, Staffordshire: producer of slurry pumps, diamond prospecting plant and other mining and mineral processing equipment.

Monotype International Division of Monotype Corporation, Redhill, Surrey: producer of photocomposition equipment for the graphic arts industry.

David Nagli/Artistic Treasures of Richmond, Richmond, Surrey: exporter of hand cut lead crystal stemware and giftware, fine china and porcelain tableware and giftware.

Neotronics Technology, Bishopstoke, Hampshire: manufacturer of electronic instruments for detection of dangerous gases and analysis of flue gases.

Norbrook Laboratories, Newry, Co Down: manufacturer of veterinary pharmaceuticals.

Norris Biomedical (1980), Basingstoke, Hampshire: manufacturer of enzymes and clinical diagnostic test kits.

Ometron, London: manufacturer of scientific instruments.

Osprey Electronics, Wick, Cumbria: manufacturer of underwater closed circuit television products and systems and associated surface control consoles.

Oxford Instruments, Oxford: manufacturer of cryogenic scientific and industrial instruments.

Oxford Lasers, Oxford: manufacturer of high performance pulsed gas lasers.

Page Aerospace, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex: manufacturer of electronic and electromechanical equipment and systems for the aerospace industry.

Pall Europe, Portsmouth: manufacturer of filters for the hydraulic, process, aircraft, biomedical, pneumatic and pharmaceutical industries.

Parsons Diesels, Colchester, Essex: producer of diesel engines for motive power and electrical generation.

W Pearce & Co (Northampton), tanners and leather finishers.

Penn Fabrication, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire: fabricators and finishers in ferrous and non-ferrous metals and produce catches, corners, handles and hinges.

Perkin-Elmer, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire: manufacturer of infra-red spectrophotometers, gas chromatographs and fluorescence spectrometers.



Philkington Communication Systems, Rhyl, Clwyd: manufacturer of fibre-optic data communication systems for the industrial, financial and banking sectors.

Pink Soda (UK), London: designers of fashion accessories.

Polymer Laboratories, Church Stretton, Shropshire: manufacturers of advanced scientific instruments for polymer characterisation, and liquid chromatography products, reference polymers and contact lens materials.

RSE, Pentwyn, Cardiff: producer of reagents and kits for diagnosis of thyroid over-reactivity.

Grass Machinery Division of Ransomes, Sims & Jefferies, Ipswich, Suffolk: producer of professional grass cutting machinery.

Randall Woolcott Services, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire: producer of technical translation and technical information searching services.

The Really Useful Group, London: theatre producers, licensors, music publishers, record producers and theatre owners.

Renishaw Metrology, Wotton Under Edge, Gloucestershire: manufacturer of 3-D touch trigger probes and accessories for coordinate measuring machines and computer numerically controlled machine tools.

J A Robertson & Sons (Dumfries), Scotland: producer of full-fashioned knitwear in cashmere, lambswool and camel hair.

Roche Products, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire: producer of vitamins, fine chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

Romil Chemicals, Loughborough, Leicestershire: producer of laboratory solvents.

Derek Rose Pyjamas, Congleton, Cheshire: manufacturer of men's nightwear.

Ross Breeders, Midlothian, Scotland: producer of poultry broiler and layer breeding stock.

Royal Mint, Pontyclun, Mid Glamorgan: exporter of coins, coin blanks, medals and seals.

SAC International, Bristol: provider of design and advanced engineering services to high technology industries.

Self-Changing Gears, Coventry, West Midlands: manufacturer of mechanical transmission systems for buses, boats, trains and armoured vehicles.

The Silver Crane Company, Suckley, Worcestershire: manufacturer of gift ware in tin and ceramics.

Staff celebrate the success of their pottery company, John Tams of Stoke-on-Trent.

Solid State Logic Holdings, Oxford: manufacturer of recording consoles for audio, video, film and broadcasting industries.

The Bridgend plant of Sony (UK), Mid Glamorgan: manufacturer of television sets, associated components and cathode ray tubes.

Soundtracs, Surbiton, Surrey: manufacturer of audio mixing consoles.

Spong Manufacturing, Leatherhead, Surrey: manufacturer of gift housewares and hardware.

Stannah Lifts (Domestic Products), Andover, Hampshire: producer of domestic stairlifts, particularly for the disabled.

Strayfield International, Caversham, Berkshire: producer of radio frequency heating equipment for drying and finishing processes in the textile, food and paper industries.

Sunseeker International (Boats), Poole, Dorset: manufacturer of luxury powerboats.

TI Stainless Tubes, Walsall, West Midlands: producer of stainless steel tubes.

John Tams, Longton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire: producer of coffee mugs and earthenware tableware.

Thermomax, Bangor, Northern Ireland: producer of solar energy collection and conversion equipment.

Thistle Hotels, London: operator of 30 four-star and three-star hotels in England and Scotland.

Total Audio Concepts, Basford, Nottinghamshire: manufacturer of audio mixing consoles.

Turbosound, London: manufacturer of sound reinforcement loudspeaker enclosures.

Turners Turkeys, Spalding, Lincolnshire: rearer and processor of turkeys.

V G Instruments, Crawley, West Sussex: manufacturer of scientific instruments.

VSW Scientific Instruments, Old Trafford, Manchester: manufacturer of scientific instruments.

The Vapormatic Company (Exeter) Devon: producer of parts for all makes of tractor.

Varn Products, Irlam, Greater Manchester: producer of chemicals and solvents for the printing industry.

Viking (PTI), Stockport, Cheshire: manufacturer of equipment for producing polyurethane foam and ancillary machinery to convert and finish blocks.

Vista Optics, Staplehurst, Kent: manufacturer of contact lens material for soft, hard and gas permeable lenses.

D W Windsor, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire: manufacturer of reproduction Victorian exterior light fittings.

ZED Instruments, Hershham, Surrey: producer of laser-engraving machinery for the printing industry.



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THE QUEEN'S AWARDS/3

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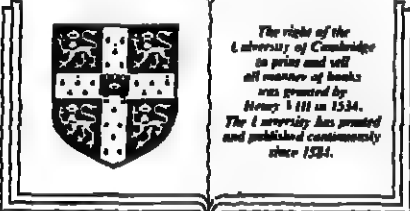
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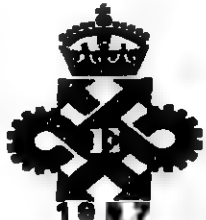
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The Queen's Award
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Profit with honour for RSC

Bill McCourt, the managing director of Old Bushmills Irish whiskey, recalls the time an Indian sat next to him on an aircraft at Kennedy Airport, New York, and suddenly took an interest in his tie.

"You clearly have something really worthwhile to talk about," said the admiring stranger.

It was an instance, says Mr McCourt, of the widespread appreciation outside Britain of the Queen's Award for Export, for his regulation blue tie, which he wears for all business trips, bears the familiar crown-and-arrows symbol.

The Old Bushmills distillery at County Antrim won an export award last year after four years of trying, an effort that Mr McCourt is convinced was worthwhile. Few winners can quantify the success of the award, most refer to the morale-boosting impact.

The Queen's stamp of approval is much prized and in countless countries is considered a valuable and impeccable credential. In Bushmills' case, says Mr McCourt, the psychological benefit to his staff was high.

Much less easy to evaluate is the effect of an award to invisible export earners. The Royal Shakespeare Theatre, which won an award last year, in part for its successful tours of northern Europe and the United States, admits that

some members of its audiences are puzzled by the sight of a Queen's Award for Export symbol attached to a non-manufacturer.

Peter Harlock, the company's publicity controller, says: "It has given us a great deal of prestige. It means that at last the arts are recognized as a contributor to overseas earnings and not just a dilettante group whingeing all the time about money."

"I hope that the award shows that we can bring some money back into the country and that we can earn a return on the investment."

Award helped RSC
to win industrial
sponsorships

About a fifth of the audiences at the Stratford-upon-Avon theatre comprises foreign visitors, of which 80 per cent are Americans, who tend to be the most impressed by the royal patronage.

The award has also helped the RSC to win more industrial sponsorships. "It makes us respectable," says Mr Harlock. "We put in for an award on the off chance and never expected to win."

As well as Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group, the invisible earners to win awards this year include

the Cunard Line, operator of the QE2 (much loved by Americans) and two hotel chains, Thistle Hotels and Historic House Hotels.

The stringent criteria applied to the export application start by demanding "a substantial and sustained increase in export earnings to a level which is outstanding for the products or services concerned and for the size of the applicant unit's operations".

Trading figures are required for the three consecutive years before the application and only earnings from goods produced in Britain are considered. Income from profits remitted to the UK from overseas subsidiaries or associates are taken into account by the advisory committee, but profits from other foreign investments or interest

on overseas investments are excluded.

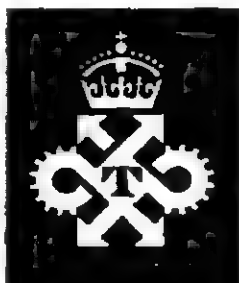
Marketing efficiency is considered and the applicant's achievement is compared with others in the same sector, then with exports as a whole over all industries and sectors.

Most of the dodges that could be dreamed up to skate around the rules have been blocked by the organizers. The rules state, for example, that "applicants are not permitted to select part of their activities simply because the products or services concerned are more exportable or show better results".

The 17th century Bodysall Hall, Llandudno, North Wales, receives the award for attracting American tourists



The best in the technology business



The following have won awards for technological excellence:

A B Automotive Products, Cardiff: development of a microprocessor-based light current switching system for cars and identified as the most innovative feature on the new Jaguar XJ40.

Amerascan International, Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire: development of a portable generator which enables exact doses of technetium-99m to be provided to meet a wide variety of clinical requirements.

Baker Perkins Bakery, Peterborough: development of horizontal fixed bowl dough mixing systems for bread dough production.

BICC Data Networks, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire: development of a series of hardware and software products for the connection of computers into a local area network.

Bonas Machine Company, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear: development of an electronic

jacquard and computer-aided patterning system for the narrow fabric textile weaving industry.

The engineering directorate of the British Broadcasting Corporation, and the Working Party on Energy Management and the Radio Teleswitching Project Group of the Electricity Council, London: development of low frequency radio teleswitching of electricity time-switches.

British Ceramic Research, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire: development of a system for the decoration of tableware by offset screen printing.

Cambrian Plastics, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan: development of a process for the manufacture of chemical storage tanks.

Detector Research Division of the Royal Signals and Radar

Establishment of the Ministry of Defence, Great Malvern, Worcestershire, and the **Electronics Division of EEV**, Chelmsford, Essex: development of a pyroelectric vidicon thermal imaging camera tube and camera.

Detector Research Division of the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment of the Ministry of Defence and the **Light Conversion Devices Division of EEV**: development of image intensifiers with gallium arsenide photocathodes for night vision.

Flight Systems (Farnborough) Department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment of the Ministry of Defence, Farnborough, Hampshire, and the **Airborne Display (Rochester)** and the **Electro-Optical Surveillance (Basilston)** Divisions of GEC

Avionics: development and application of night vision technology for fixed wing aircraft.

Dynapert Precima, Colchester, Essex: development of a microplacement system to meet the requirements of electronic components.

Exploration Consultants, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire: development of a microplacement system to meet the requirements of surface mounting of electronic components.

Printed Circuit Group of the Bracknell Division of Ferranti Computer Systems, Bracknell, Berkshire: development of metal cored multilayered printed wiring boards for electronic equipment.

The Engineering Division (Large Steam Turbines) of GEC Turbine Generators, Rugby, Warwickshire: design of new families of steam turbines for power generation.

ICI Advanced Materials Group of Imperial Chemical Industries, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire: development of high performance polyetheretherketone for use in filament, film, composite and injection moulded forms for demanding applications.

Jaguar Cars, Coventry: development of the XJ40 luxury car.

Lands Ltd Division of Litton UK, Keighley, West

Continued on next page



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FOCUS

THE QUEEN'S AWARDS/4

Even the Americans want to copy

The Queen's Awards to industry are made by a process that has remained largely unchanged for 22 years, a ritual that in the final analysis is to many a baffling secret. The trouble is that they command a mixture of Whitehall decision-making with discreet Palace patronage.

Entrants know that in the early stages the many hours of management time spent in filing the best possible application form are not wasted, with the two Department of Trade and Industry subordinate committees giving everyone a fair hearing. But in a reflection of the personal honours system, the crucial final selection process remains confidential.

The official role of the advisory committee, chaired by Sir Robert Armstrong, head of the home civil service, is described as assisting the prime minister to give advice to the Queen on who should win. In reality the decision is made by the committee and rubber-stamped by No 10.

The proportion of applicants discarded by the advisory committee is never disclosed. Ken Burns, the committee secretary, says bluntly: "That is not for public consumption. But I can assure you that an enormous amount of preparatory work goes into the assessment and those that are weeded out do not meet the criteria."

The advisory committee includes an impressive line-up of names. This year it comprised Sir James Clesminson, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board; David Nickson, president of the Confederation of British Industry; Sir Brian Hayes, permanent secretary at the DTI; Jack Jones, representing the TUC; the Earl of Limerick, chairman of the British Invisible Exports Council; and Sir Francis Tombs, chairman of Rolls-Royce and the Engineering Council.

The two independent members were John Bolton, chairman of Growth Capital, and John Raisman.



Symbol of success: Ken Burns, awards secretary, and the engraved award

former chairman of Shell UK. The subordinate committees, whose members are mostly civil servants, are both chaired by Sir Brian Hayes.

About 10 days in advance of its annual meeting, the advisory committee receives the finalists' documents, this year a bundle of paper a foot thick. It contains a summary of the applicants' cases and a barrage of annexes splitting the entries by region, size of company and industry. This year the committee met on Budget Day and produced the winners after 3½ hours of deliberations.

According to Mr Burns, the Queen takes a deep interest in the awards and has yet to miss one of the Palace receptions that are held towards the end of the winners' first year.

Some of the stuffiness of the scheme was taken away after the report of the 1975 review committee, chaired by the Duke of Edinburgh, which was

concerned that firms were put off by not knowing how near or far they got to winning.

It recommended that the awards office be given discretion to give "general guidance to firms and to indicate factors which might have adversely affected an application".

The Queen's Award is still the primary award

Easier said than done, however. The office says: "Such guidance is often limited in practice since in many cases there are no obvious reasons why the firm was not chosen other than the strength of the competition."

The office is also short on staff — it has only seven full-time workers — and on cash. It has a small budget of £50,000, of which £50,000 is spent each year on two bursts of advertising

in July and September. For the rest of the publicity it relies on reports in trade journals, the CBI News and dissemination through DTI regional offices and trade associations.

Mr Burns says: "There are many other types of awards, but the Queen's Award is still the primary award for industry to aim for. And the word must have got around because we have had inquiries from American cities seeking advice on how to establish an award scheme."

Giant companies such as GEC, ICI or British Aerospace have become super-sophisticated, he says, in permeating all the main chances of winning an award, proof of the award's value. The 1975 review committee recommended that "other things being equal, priority in the selection of candidates will be given to the newcomer". Thus, subsidiaries of existing winners stand a better chance than the parent company.

A further indication of the popularity, significance and exclusivity of the awards are the efforts by some to pass themselves off as winners. The Queen's Awards office is suing two small companies for alleged fraudulent use of the insignia following complaints to the local trading standards officers from customers that the services on offer were inferior to what should be expected from an award winner.

It is also common for some of the winners to "forget" that their five years of holding an award has expired and to continue to fly the flag.

Mr Burns comments: "On the whole, we don't have to police the awards because everyone writes to us if they spot a wrong-doer. Generally the odd small company might be tempted to pretend that it has won, but I cannot conceive that a reputable large organization would be so daft."

Queen's Awards Office, Bradley House, 52 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AG; 01-222 2277



Nimbus Records
Britain's largest manufacturer of compact discs has won the Queen's Award For Technology for its pioneering work in laser mastering

Aids test-kit developers among the winners

From previous page

Yorkshire: development of a computer numerically-controlled lobe grinding machine for automotive camshafts.

Nimbus Records, Monmouth, Gwent: development of a laser compact disc mastering suite for the manufacture of compact discs.

The Plant Breeding Institute, Trumpington, Cambridge: breeding high yielding winter wheats with good milling and bread making quality.

Racal Marine Radar, New

Malden Surrey: development of a digital scan converter for radar colour displays.

Racal Recorders, Hythe, Southampton: development of a magnetic tape recorder for data recording.

Engineering and Manufacturing Team for the Wide Chord Fan Blades of Rolls-Royce, Derby and Barnoldswick: development of the fan blade for the RB 211-535E4 zero engine.

Optical Devices Division of STC Defence Systems, Paignton, Devon: develop-

ment of laser devices for fibre optic communication enabling operation over 30-kilometre ranges.

Singer Link-Miles, Lancing, West Sussex: development of the functionally distributed simulation processing system for complex aircraft simulators.

Cryogenics Group of Suizer Bros (UK), Aldershot, Hampshire: development of the world's first high-reliability, low-maintenance, small-scale liquid nitrogen generators.

Tech-Nel Data Products, Ban-

bury Oxfordshire: development of a single, modular microprocessor-based system providing fault tolerance to computer and data communications networks.

VG Analytical, Manchester: development of laminated magnets for fast-scanning mass spectrometers.

Wellcome Diagnostics Division of the Wellcome Foundation, Dartford, Kent: development of the anti-HTLV test kit, achieving new standards of convenience, speed, safety and reliability of

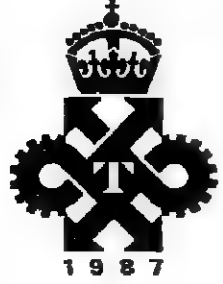
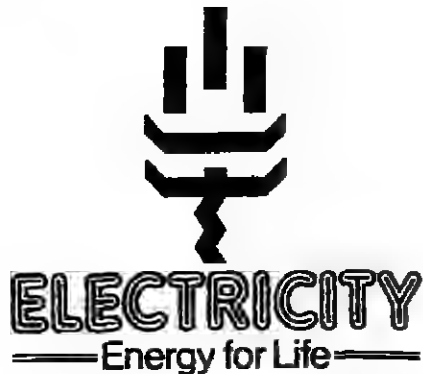
blood-testing of the Aids virus.

Wendstone Chemicals, Billingham, Cleveland: development of a new process for large scale production of an intermediate used in the production of engineering plastic and pharmaceuticals.

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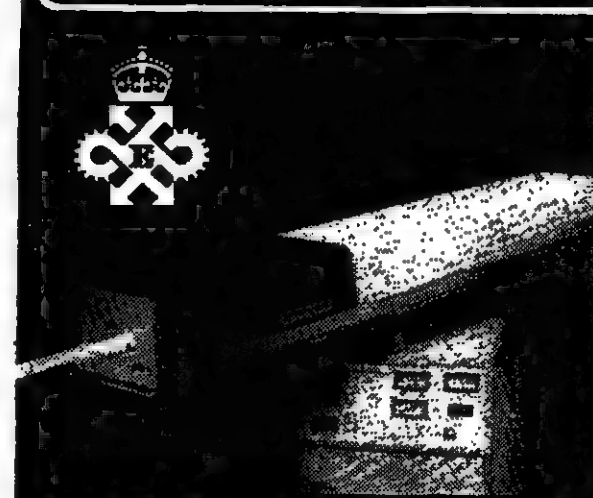


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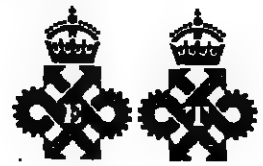
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THE QUEEN'S AWARDS FOR EXPORT AND TECHNOLOGY 1988.



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1987

THE QUEEN'S AWARD FOR
TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT

The million pound dream

For Bernard McCartney, winning the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement has changed his life and transformed his company.

In the first six months after receiving the award, his eight-man firm has doubled its turnover and is heading this year towards total sales of nearly £1 million; all on the strength of the recognition given to his invention to improve the performance of mobile landfill compactors.

Bernard McCartney Ltd, based at Stockport, Cheshire, started up after its founder was made redundant.

Now, with the cachet of a Queen's Award boosting its image, it is a supplier to the mighty Caterpillar company and to the Japanese Komatsu company, which has just set up in Britain.

Mr McCartney dismisses the doubts of the Queen's Awards detractors. "For us," he says, "it has been marvelous. While some doors were not exactly closed to us beforehand, we were battering against them. Then along comes the award and now the people are coming out to us."

"The Komatsu deal is beyond our wildest dreams. The award has put the seal on everything."

His advice to would-be winners: "You just have to work very hard, have a good product and meet the very stiff criteria by showing that it is commercial and has a growing value. I thought I could never get enough information together to win an award, but in the event we won it with bells on."

His firm's steel wheels, which transform landfill compactors into mining and pulverizing machines, now stand alongside some of British industry's most sophisticated electronic, chemical and pharmaceutical developments as holders of the coveted award.

This year, 34 technological achievement awards have been made, bringing the total since the specific category was introduced in 1975 to 447. Again, small successful firms rub shoulders with the household names.

Among them is Cambrian Plastics of Mid Glamorgan, which has a work force of 13 and which, says the citation, has developed and built, in-house, a unique, low-cost, electronically controlled filament winding system for fibre reinforced plastics.

The machine enables one-piece chemical storage tanks to be made in four hours; previously it took three men



Sweet success for Bernard McCartney: "The award has put the seal on everything for us"

two weeks to complete.

The technology award was instituted following the 1975 review committee report, chaired by the Duke of Edinburgh. This found that there was confusion in the public mind about a single award for two quite different forms of achievement and recommended the split.

It said: "We prefer technological achievement to innovation because we consider that this more accurately reflects the purpose of the scheme, which demands that

an award should be made only when there is evidence that an innovation has been developed to the point of commercial success."

The criteria now laid down are "a significant advance, leading to increased efficiency, in the application of technology to a production or development process in British industry or the production for sale of goods which incorporate new and advanced technological qualities."

The advisory committee looks for "significant" ad-

vances and evidence of commercial success and not just a natural development.

Sir Francis Tombs, a member of the advisory committee and chairman of Rolls-Royce, one of this year's technology award winners, said: "The technology award is a recognition of a real and genuine achievement. I look for evidence of major effort. But the award is not a passport to the future: it recognizes what people have done in the past."

"What happens to any of us is in the lap of the gods."

A great day for award-winning staff

Celebrating the winning of a coveted Queen's Award has a common theme: the emphasis by companies large and small on praising workers for the part they have played.

The presentation of the grant of appointment scroll and commemorative block is usually made on company premises by the lord lieutenant of the county, resplendent in full regalia.

As well as the formal ceremony, which can vary from a low key hand-over to a full-blown champagne occasion, first-timers, bursting with pride, often give a party soon

after learning of their success, writes Irene Farnsworth.

A permanent memento of the award is given to every employee by some companies. Others choose to reward staff with a pay bonus.

Meeting the Queen is also a possibility for chosen shop-floor representatives and company directors attending the Buckingham Palace reception for award winners.

Kodak, the largest manufacturer of photographic materials in Britain and particularly pleased to have won an award for the fourth time, in Industry Year, was represented at the Palace reception in February

by Cyril Sugarman, manufacturing director, Ralph Mahar, group supervisor in the photo chemical department, Kirby, and Eric Barnes, process line controller in the finishing department at Kodak's largest UK factory in Harrow.

Mr Barnes said: "Meeting the Queen was the icing on the cake."

The chairman and managing director, Ray Milner, who is retiring next month, received the award for export achievement from the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, Simon Boves Lyon, a cousin of the Queen, at a presentation held at the company's Swallowfield site in Hemel Hempstead.

Mr Boves Lyon, an investment adviser, said: "The Lord Lieutenant adds a little pomp to the occasion, wearing full uniform, sword and all. Most companies take the opportunity to say thank you to their employees and I talk to as many people as I can. The fact that I am interested in industry makes it all the more worthwhile."

British Aerospace, which can almost be depended on to have at least one division attracting an award, turned presentation ceremonies in Hertfordshire into spectacular last year. The Hatfield Unit of The Civil Aircraft Division combined receiving the award from the lord lieutenant with the handover of an aircraft to an American customer, AirCal.

An unusual venue for an award ceremony was a boatyard workshop where a 50ft motorboat was being built. The Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, John Lowther, made the presentation to the

chairman of Fairline Boats, Sam Newington, son of the founder.

Mr Newington's wife, Bryony, project manager, said: "Everybody here is proud of the Queen's Award. Our 260 employees were given a tie or pin featuring the award symbol which we have also used on flags and stationery."

The company, which went public in 1979, started modestly as a marina and boat repair yard in 1964 when the founder, Jack Newington, needed somewhere to keep his boat. David Willis, the purchasing manager, and Brian Marlow, the engineering foreman, who have worked for Fairline from the early days, went to the Palace with the sales director, Bill Baxter.

Acrylic peppermill a runaway success

Another company highly delighted to receive an award for exports was Cole and Mason, manufacturers of tableware and kitchen accessories, which counts an acrylic pepper mill as one of its runaway successes.

The chairman, David Cowan, whose father founded the company in London in 1919, said: "Very few people in our particular trade export. We have managed to do it by perseverance, and fighting to get our market share. Exports now represent 55-60 per cent of our business."

"We were over the moon to

get the award and gave a party at Lincoln's Inn soon afterwards. The award was marvelous recognition of the hard work put in by all our staff."

Asprey, with a turnover in excess of £51 million, celebrated its second Queen's Award with a boardroom lunch at its headquarters in Bond Street, London, for key staff from departments contributing to the award for exports of jewellery, china and leather goods.

Also winning an award for a second time was Coopers (Swindon) Ltd, pioneers of scrap metal exporting. Coopers, with plants throughout the UK, does £78 million of export business a year throughout the world.

The managing director, Stanley Hill, said: "We had to look for an overseas market when the scrap metal industry in the UK faced a restricted market and had a surplus."

"The ferrous department won the award in 1982 and the 1986 award went to the non ferrous department. Unquestionably, the Queen's Award is a morale booster for our employees."

Eight awards - four prime ministers have signed grants of appointment - are proudly displayed at the headquarters of Crosfield Electronics, at Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. The company started 40 years ago in a spare room at the home of the company's founder, John Crosfield.

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THE CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

the view of those who make, buy and sell programmes world-wide. Over a hundred national and international awards prove the point. Top television awards like the Golden Rose of Montreux, the Prix Italia and two International Emmys in successive years.

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The first of our readers' funnies

Here is the first selection of readers' computer jokes - the two overall winners will be announced on May 12.

■ My grandson's parents were called to his school to be told that Steven, aged 6, had been very naughty that day. On the way home, his mother, a computer research analyst, asked him why he had been naughty. Steven replied: "Mum, when I got up this morning I was programmed to be naughty, but that's all right... I'll be programmed 'good' tomorrow."

R.L. Swink, 131 Gloucester Court, Kew Road, Richmond, Surrey.

■ A transatlantic balloonist, totally lost, shouted down to a golfer: "Where am I?" The startled golfer looked up crossly: "You are in a balloon, 70 feet above the ninth tee of a golf course."

The golfer, more startled, said: "I am actually, how did you know?"

"Well," said the balloonist, "the information you gave me was 100 per cent accurate, but totally useless."

E.H. Brooks, 4 Kirby Hill, Saddlestone Valley, Braddon, Isle of Man.

■ Patient goes to doctor, who diagnoses by computer. After a long wait, the machine comes

Still a chance to win a sunshine holiday

This is the third of our four weekly competitions, in association with the computer services company CMG (Computer Management Group) UK Ltd, aimed at finding the best in humour from our increasing reliance on computer technology.

Prizes include two flights to the United States and a Mediterranean holiday.

HOW TO ENTER

Send us in no more than 75 words, on one side of one sheet of paper, your favourite joke or humorous account of a situation connected with computing. All you need to add is your name, address and telephone number (if any) and The Times/CMG competition logo at the top of this page. Cut out and pinned or stuck on the sheet. Send your entry to: The Times/CMG Computing Humour Competition, 29 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1A 2BU, to arrive no later than Saturday, April 25.

THE PRIZES

First prize in the competition will be an open executive class return air ticket for two to Boston, with transport to and from the airport.

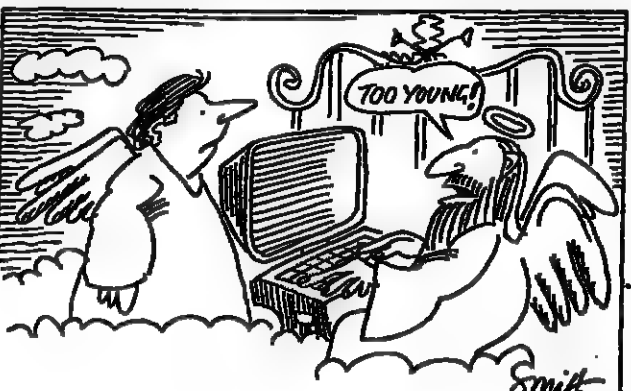
The prize will include two nights' hotel accommodation and a visit to the computer

museum. The second prize is a Mediterranean holiday for two, valued at £1,000.

In addition, there will be runner-up prizes for all those readers whose jokes are published among the selection we intend to reproduce in Computer Horizons. These prizes will be presentation copies of a joke book to be edited by Rex Malik which will incorporate the prize-winning entries.

THE RULES

- 1 The prizes will be awarded to the entrants whose contributions are, in the opinion of the judges, the best submitted.
- 2 All entries should be original, although a computing variation of a familiar joke is acceptable.
- 3 Any number of entries may be submitted, provided The Times/CMG logo is attached to each entry.
- 4 The competition is not open to employees of Times Newspapers Ltd and its associated companies or CMG (Computer Management Group) UK Ltd, or any of its subsidiaries, and those employees' families.
- 5 The judges' decisions will at all times be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- 6 Entries are not returnable.



up with: "There's a lot of it about."

Valerie Grosvenor Myer, 34 West End, Haddenham, Ely, Cambridgeshire.

■ The word processing package of my Apricot PC included a spelling checker. I decided to try it. "THIS APRICOT IS FULL OF PIPPS." The mis-spelling of pips was intentional. I pressed the key for

the spelling check. "This document contains 6 words." The next message said: "Two words are not in my dictionary." "Two?" I pondered. "The first words is PIPPS." Well done, but the other word? "The second word is APRICOT." Malcolm Windsor, 16 Old Church Lane, Edinburgh.

■ Q What do you get when you cross a cow with a computer? A Milk monitor. Stephanie Jenkins, 39 Kennet Road, Headington, Oxford.

■ "We have a new thing at school. It is very small, quick and very clever. It is called a micro professor." (These are the words of a nine-year-old pupil, when my school got its first BBC computer under the

DTI assisted purchase scheme several years ago.) Arthur Hawarden, Headmaster, Gorran CP School, St Austell, Cornwall.

Extract from a Commodore Printer, Model 1526, instruction sheet: 2. Remove shipping screws. Carefully lift front of computer unit and make it stand as the bottom of case be vertically face to you and hold the unit by the one of your hand on the soft surface. Then, remove the shipping screws with a Phillips-head screw driver. After it is removed, gently back the unit to lay flat on a firm surface, position the printer front be face to you.

Richard G. Hunt, 45 Cumberland Road, Bromley, Kent.

Faster data discs

By Jacquetta Megarry

Lotus Development moved into the information business last week, using a compact disc read-only memory (CD-ROM), containing up to nine financial databases and programs to analyse them, based on the 1-2-3 spreadsheet.

The discs, which will be updated weekly, can include daily stock price history and three years of time series data. The largest CD-ROMs can store up to 600 megabytes - around 100 million words.

Floyd Bradley, the managing director of Lotus UK, claims customers will be able to get data about 100 times faster than through a mainframe. "For example, a user can pull 8,000 data items on a single company in six seconds, or within three seconds pull 20 years of sales figures for two

companies and create a comparative report," he said. The price for using the system, which will run on IBM XT, AT and compatibles, will range from £8,000 to £20,000 a year.

In fact, the compact disc has been a runaway success as a hi-fi scratch-free compact version of the LP. The same format has massive potential for storing text, graphics, sound and computer software/data.

The new media divide into CD-ROM (Read Only Memory), and just around the corner, CD-I (Interactive). The capacity is awesome: a spiral track, three miles long, on a 4.7 inch disc, can hold 600 Megabytes of data. All the telephone directories of Europe could fit on to two discs.

The technology of mastering, replicating and reading all three types of disc is virtually identical. Run-on copies cost around 30p to manufacture. All 23,500,000 mailable addresses in Britain have recently been pressed on to one Silver Platter produced the disc for the Post Office, which is selling it at £2,500.

Compared with online database searching, CD-ROMs have many advantages: savings in both telecommunications and connection charges, flexibility in local access and printing arrangements and freedom from line noise and connection problems.

Microsoft Press has published the first readable book on the subject - CD-ROM: the New Papyrus, though at £20 and 620 pages it's heavy going for some.

IBM profits confound Wall St pundits

Showing more strength than many on Wall Street expected, IBM last week reported a surprising 5.5 per cent rise in its first-quarter revenues, though net income dropped 23 per cent. While the results showed a continuation of the profits decline that has plagued IBM for two years now, the company's performance was significantly better than most analysts had predicted. As a result, IBM's stock surged on the New York Stock Exchange last week amid hopes that a flood of new products available in the second half of the year will pull IBM - and the computer industry that follows in its wake - out of a two-year slump. IBM's net income totalled \$785 million, down from \$1.02 billion in the corresponding quarter a year ago, while revenues grew to \$1.63 billion, from \$1.51 billion last year, included in that figure was a 6.5 per cent increase in outright sales, after many analysts had expected a modest decline.

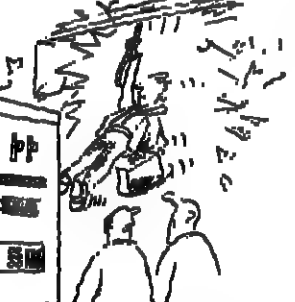
Home banking

TBS is to use a computerized voice-response system to give its customers a form of home banking from mid-June. Customers will be able to use a £12 push-button telephone to connect with TBS computers by telephone. By entering their account number and personal identification code, customers will be able to check their balance, pay bills and transfer funds between accounts.

Get the fax

The market for facsimile equipment, which has been doubling every year in Britain for the past six years, could grow even faster as a result of two new machines from British Telecom. One is a combined fax transceiver and telephone unit, at around £1,900, which BT hopes could add many new business desks, even high street shops. The other, at £2,750, is a combined fax and personal computer which links fax and text processing, together with store and forward facilities.

Basically a high-volume fax terminal, coupled with an industry standard 20 megabyte PC and BT-developed software, it enables facsimile documents received from various locations to be combined with computer-prepared pages of text and sent to other addresses.



Monsoon warning

India may buy a Soviet supercomputer instead of an American one because the US deal has been stalled. India has been negotiating for the US supercomputer for nearly two years and was hoping to use it to help forecast monsoons. But the deal has foundered on India's insistence on getting the most advanced machine and American concerns that the technology might end up in Soviet hands.

Mr Narayanan, the Indian Minister of State for Electronics, said last week that Moscow had agreed to sell India a supercomputer, the Elbrus 3, in a trade protocol signed last month.

Hi-tec chop-suey

A computer at the University of Chicago has learned how to cook Chinese food without getting the vegetables soggy. But while this has little if any practical value, computer scientist Kristian Hammond says his CHOP program represents an important step toward creating computers that can think - and presumably cook - for themselves.

"To a computer, cooking can be more difficult than calculating the collapse of a star or the trajectory of a spacecraft," Mr Hammond says.



A year after Sir Clive Sinclair sold off his home-computer empire, the market is awaiting the new portable machine which will mark his business relaunch. Although orders have been taken the venture is being plagued by production delays, common in the high-tech industry

Awaiting the new line after the big sale

The biggest sell-off in British home computer history celebrates its first birthday this month as Sir Clive Sinclair contemplates his second year without stewardship of the Sinclair Spectrum products, which made his initial fortune in the early 1980s.

Sir Clive may be cheered that his Spectrum computer still thrives under the ownership of Alan Sugar's Amstrad, but right now he is more concerned with getting his own new business computer project - the Cambridge Computers 288 portable computer - under way.

He has been taking orders for the machine since its unveiling at the Which Computer show in February, but as of last week still had not delivered any machines.

The computer press has reported that Sir Clive has had production delays which could make him miss the promised date of the end of April to begin delivering the 288, but that is a problem which has plagued Sinclair and many of his competitors before.

Indeed, Amstrad has had problems in shipping enough computers to meet demand and Amstrad user magazines are dotted with letters suggest-

ing that people who have ordered PC1512s are waiting to several months for delivery.

Sir Clive has had a busy year since he sold off the home computer interests to bail out his ailing electronics empire. Shortly after the sale to Alan Sugar, Sinclair began the process of trying to find money for another new venture - the Amstrad wafer scale integration computer chip.

This was supposed to revolutionize the cost and power of computer random access memory (RAM) and successfully produce what

By Geof Wheelwright

many other larger companies have failed to achieve.

Thus far, Sinclair has not yet produced even the add-on memory product for the IBM PC, which was to be the start of his sales of wafer scale.

Also at that time came revived talk of Sinclair's "C10" - a reworked version of the disastrous C5 electric bike which cost Sir Clive dearly in 1985.

Despite the fact that this might seem like a doomed idea it was actually the machine Sir Clive had planned to build in the first place.

The C10 was to be a two-seater enclosed electric passenger car, for which the ill-fated C5 was only the forerunner.

But like some other ideas of Sir Clive's, it started to go off the rails when he reached the final design, production and manufacturing stages.

Sir Clive's name has also been linked to a number of other intriguing schemes - including plans to offer a low-cost cellular telephone system. This idea was originally under investigation by Sinclair Research - the company through which Sir Clive sold his home computers - and generated considerable interest and discussion throughout the industry.

All of Sinclair's existing inventions are being sold by other people. The home computer products are under the wing of Amstrad while it has been left to Times to sell what is left of the company's pocket television business and the quirky Sinclair Microdrive computer storage units.

Much of the technology which went into the Sinclair QL computer still lives on as part of both ICL's One Per Desk and British Telecom's Tonto computer telephone systems.

Response to an inner voice

JOBSCENE

By Ken Young

As telecommunications moves centre stage, linking computing and voice operations within companies, the boom in jobs related to it shows no sign of abating.

"This year is seeing a rapid growth in the rate of introduction of IT, distributed processing, and international communications. It has led to a 10-15 per cent rise in activity for headhunters," says Anthony Spurr, manager of BIS Applied Systems Executive Search and Recruitment.

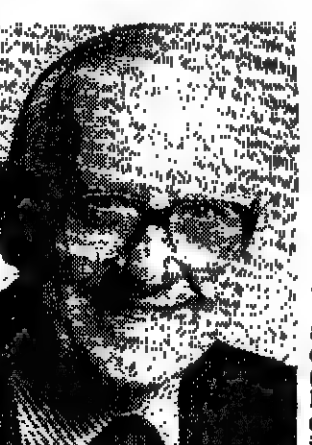
Spurr says that there are no signs of a let-up either: "The demand for people is driven by the technology - the faster it changes, the more the industry needs new staff to cope."

There are three immediate effects of the boom. First, companies are importing talent where the home-grown supply is found lacking. Second, the amount of contract labour is rising sharply. And third, some very inexperienced staff are occupying top telecommunications jobs.

On the whole, imported talent comes from the United States, which has a three to four-year lead in take-up of telecommunications products. But, increasingly, British employees are being sought after as Americans succumb to their longing for a taste of home cooking. In the words of one recruitment consultant: "Some of these US guys are desperate to get home."

The move to contract labour suits employers and employees alike. The salaries are also much higher: "In general, the salaries are about double. A communications engineer may be earning £20,000 and then go contract and get £40,000," says Mr Spurr.

For the employer the benefits are that he can take staff on for short periods during project development. Installations being made prior to the Big Bang made substantial use of contract labour, for example. He can also make sure he



Anthony Spurr: "Knock-on effect from contracts"

gets someone with the exact skills needed rather than consider the person within the framework of developing in the company.

"Over 30 per cent of all jobs in telecommunications are on a contract basis now. The employers are being forced to pay higher salaries."

The problem is that using contract labour can lead to dissatisfaction among permanent staff when they find they

are doing the same work for half as much money. Some headhunters say there is a knock-on effect when they place someone on a contract.

But some people are making the most of the shortage of talent and getting themselves promoted to positions way beyond their capabilities. Most headhunters have a story to tell in this respect.

One who prefers to remain anonymous says that he has come across a few companies (some household names) that have promoted non-telecommunications people to top jobs.

He cites the example of a head of maintenance who has become the director of the communications department. The result? Staff working under him are amazed at his lack of communications knowledge and most are now looking for alternative employment.

Then there's the story of the switchboard operator who is acting part-time as the company telecommunications manager, when she is not occupied answering incoming calls that is.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

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Application forms and further details from the Recruitment Section on 01-587 4860/4875 (ansaphones), Personnel Department, Room 607, Queensborough House, 12-18 Albert Embankment, London SE1. Please quote ref: F/8/86.

Closing date: 15th May 1987. The London Fire and Civil Defence Authority is an equal opportunities employer.

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We are a young, rapidly expanding commercial firm and we are now seeking a solicitor with a minimum of 3-4 years' post-qualification experience in commercial work. Some experience of entertainment and publishing law would be an advantage.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

LONDON LEGAL EXECUTIVES are pleased to announce that they have changed their name to:-

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LEGAL SELECTION
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London W1Y 0HR England
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Fax 01-491 7459
Telex 298942

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The candidate should display excellent communication skills, have good organisational abilities and possess a high degree of motivation as it is essential that within a short period, the position will include the leadership of an existing team. Experience will be given to candidates who have a good track record in U.K. domestic tax matters. A knowledge of French or German would be useful but not essential.

Starting salary is expected to be in the region of £20,000 depending on the previous experience of the candidate. Please reply in strict confidence to:

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B.P. 878, 258 Boulevard Royal
L-2018 LUXEMBOURG
Telephone No.: 27381

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Neither the salary packages nor future career potential will be limiting factors for the right people.

In the first instance please write with full career details quoting reference CRS 837, to Stephen E Garlick, Lockyer, Bradshaw & Wilson, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH.

LBW

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London/Provinces

We welcome enquiries from Articled Clerks throughout the U.K. due to qualify in 1987 who would like the opportunity to discuss, on an informal basis, the opportunities open to them in private practice, both in Central London and the provinces. Positions in all fields of the law carry with them increasingly attractive remuneration and prospects.

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EC1

Continued expansion in the Commercial department of this large City firm has created an excellent opportunity for young lawyers seeking to gain excellent experience in a range of commercial matters. Ideally with a financial background in Articles or post admission, applicants will be bright, ambitious and keen to take on early responsibility for quality work. Highly competitive salary.

For details of these and other vacancies please contact John Cullen or Judith Farmer.

LEGAL ADVISOR

Central London

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c.£22,000 + Benefits

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Cheltenham,
Glos GL50 1HT,
Tel: 0242-511251.

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Applicants should ideally have been admitted for not less than 18 months and have had previous experience of the type of work involved but these are not hard and fast criteria. Of fundamental importance are a good academic record, a capacity to learn quickly and to adapt readily to changing circumstances, communication skills, the ability to cope with demanding work under pressure and the readiness to accept responsibility for complex transactions.

We can offer a stimulating career in a friendly environment, with competitive salary and benefits and excellent prospects. If you believe that you have the necessary qualities and would like to know more about us and our work. Please write, in confidence, with a full curriculum vitae to

Christopher Walford,
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London EC2V 6AD.

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THE LEGAL AND FINANCIAL RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS
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General Accident

Meeting your requirements...

Commerce/Industry
Commercial Litigation £18,000

This large public body requires 2 solicitors for their head office in the City. Applicants should have at least 1 year's commercial litigation experience and wish to handle a variety of litigation, planning and general commercial work.

September Qualifiers

If you are due to be admitted as a solicitor in the autumn, we can help you to decide upon the wide range of opportunities that we currently have available both in private practice and in industry. If you are considering a move on qualifying, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Private Practice
Company/Commercial £18,000+

Our client is a 30 partner City firm with an extensive public and private company client list. They require a solicitor with at least one year's experience to join their company/commercial department handling high quality corporate finance and venture capital work.

If you would like further information about these positions, please telephone
Simon Anderson or Steven Grubb on 01-831 2000 (01-794 7265 evenings or weekends) or write to them at
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MP

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International Recruitment Consultants
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BEAMA

The Federation of British Electrotechnical and Allied Manufacturers' Associations requires a second lawyer to join its Legal Department.

This Department provides an advisory service with a heavy emphasis on contractual matters; runs legal seminars; publishes contract conditions and guides and generally represents the interests of the Federation to Government and public utilities.

The requirement is for a recently qualified lawyer able to provide practical legal advice over a range of subjects.

Applications, together with CV and salary indications should be sent to:

The Legal Department
BEAMA Federation
Leicester House
8 Leicester Street
London WC2H 7BN

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Telephone Henley-on-Thames (0491) 572138

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Tel: 04254-2424

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Apply Mrs J. Melsner,
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Chislehurst
Kent, BR7 5AS.
Tel. No. 01 468 7025

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£ NEG
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Scale 6/SO1-£29,513 to £11,271 p.a.

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The duties of the post include routine conveyancing, the preparation of leases, agreements, deeds, mortgages, statutory orders, etc., and general assistance within the Legal Division.

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Closing date for applications: 1st May, 1987.

CHELTENHAM
borough council

CANNOCK CHASE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chief Executive and Secretary's Department

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SOLICITOR

(Temporary)

P.O. (1-4) £11,952 - £12,894

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Application forms and further particulars from Cannock Chase District Council, 7/8 New St, Cannock, Staffs WS11 1BT or by telephone (0546) 661111. Closing date: 15th May 1987.

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County Council

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DEPUTY CHIEF
CONSTABLE

Salary: £32,739 per annum

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Application forms are obtainable from the Chief Executive/Clerk (Ref: 60), County Hall, Preston, PR1 8SL. (Tel: Preston 0772 263462).

Closing Date: 15th May, 1987

BRIAN HILL,
Clerk to the Police Committee
County Hall
PRESTON

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to cover Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Cheshire - must be resident in the Region

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Mrs Pat Brosnan, Winged Fellowship,
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London N1 9XD.
Tel: 01-833 2594.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

The Worship of Mammon



Pastor David Martin preaching to his congregation in a black fundamentalist church: Thy Will Be Done (on ITV, 10.30pm)

Thy Will Be Done (ITV, 10.30pm) concludes the two-part survey by Antony Thomas on the Christian right in the United States. His focus this time is Dallas, known as the "Bible Belt", where the First Baptist Church runs a city within a city with its own schools and gyms, and boasts a turnover of \$17 million a year. The message is: make money and succeed. There is, says Pastor Creswell, no virtue in being poor. A movement that claims to be a reaction against materialism worships Mammon as a second God. As related in Thomas's first programme, Fundamentalism sees politics and religion as indivisible, claims the following of 40 per cent of Americans and has the sympathetic ear of President Reagan.

CHOICE

Thomas is content to report, rather than judge, but the implications of this Bible-bashing bigotry are clear enough.

Strike It Rich! (BBC1, 9.30pm) has a similar fascination with money, and therein, presumably, lies its appeal. It is certainly not a show that wins prizes for acting, script or credibility. For those who missed the first series, it is about a news agency trying to sort of a take-over bid and all sorts of unlikely people becoming millionaires through shares they had forgotten they possessed.

Peter Waymark

Peter Davalle writes: If the judges' No 1 criterion was a talent for filling an hour of redemptive time with the spoken word, the boring characters would have no listeners in the process. Then I'm not surprised they decided that Martin Crimp's Definitely the Bahamas (Radio 3, 7.30pm) should get the 1986 Radio Times award for best radio play. But it's a highly original piece, too, because we, the listeners, are cast in the role of confidants of the endless prattle from this Pinteresque husband and wife, and even if, phone-in style, we were able to contribute our own comments, the concentric circles of the spouses' inanities would never allow us to get a word in edgewise. They exclude us just as mercilessly as the couple exclude each other.



Rosemary Leach: Definitely the Bahamas (Radio 3, 7.30pm)

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALES 5.55pm-6.00pm: Wales Today 6.30-7.00pm Go For It 12.05-12.10 News and weather 12.10-12.15 News 12.15-12.20 News 12.20-12.25 News 12.25-12.30 News 12.30-12.35 News 12.35-12.40 News 12.40-12.45 News 12.45-12.50 News 12.50-12.55 News 12.55-1.00 News 1.00-1.05 News 1.05-1.10 News 1.10-1.15 News 1.15-1.20 News 1.20-1.25 News 1.25-1.30 News 1.30-1.35 News 1.35-1.40 News 1.40-1.45 News 1.45-1.50 News 1.50-1.55 News 1.55-2.00 News 2.00-2.05 News 2.05-2.10 News 2.10-2.15 News 2.15-2.20 News 2.20-2.25 News 2.25-2.30 News 2.30-2.35 News 2.35-2.40 News 2.40-2.45 News 2.45-2.50 News 2.50-2.55 News 2.55-3.00 News 3.00-3.05 News 3.05-3.10 News 3.10-3.15 News 3.15-3.20 News 3.20-3.25 News 3.25-3.30 News 3.30-3.35 News 3.35-3.40 News 3.40-3.45 News 3.45-3.50 News 3.50-3.55 News 3.55-4.00 News 4.00-4.05 News 4.05-4.10 News 4.10-4.15 News 4.15-4.20 News 4.20-4.25 News 4.25-4.30 News 4.30-4.35 News 4.35-4.40 News 4.40-4.45 News 4.45-4.50 News 4.50-4.55 News 4.55-5.00 News 5.00-5.05 News 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Clarke's treble gives Everton edge for summit

By Dennis Shaw

Everton 3
Newcastle 0

Everton will arrive at next Saturday's Merseyside football summit at Anfield well prepared, sound in technique and full of the resolve that translates into trophies.

Their three goals, all struck triumphantly in the second half by Wayne Clarke, ensured that his new club improved their decisive advantage over Liverpool in points and goal difference.

Clarke revealed the finishing qualities of his older brother, Allan, in his days of honours at Leeds United. The last two goals came in the final ten minutes just as Liverpool were slipping up in their confrontation down the East Lancs Road.

Newcastle United, defiantly reluctant to end their uplifting run and game to the last, proved merely to be sparring partners before Saturday's big fight.

The first goal by Clarke was headed in off the inside of the post as Power crossed from the left.

That was at the start of the second half and from then on Everton took charge, with increasing arrogance. The second

and came when Harper, who replaced the injured Reid, strode menacingly down the left to wrong foot defenders before crossing for Clarke to score. His third almost on the final whistle sent the Goodison multitudes into a bank holiday mood of joyous celebration. Clarke completed his treble when, under heavy pressure, he leapt to head in a right-wing cross in a packed goalmouth. The 43,576 gate meant that 75,000 had watched them in three days.

Newcastle's achievement in orchestrating a goal-less first half was due to a magnificent ten minutes by their goalkeeper, Thomas, and a misquipped header by Clarke.

Everton were always in charge but could not capitalize until Clarke got his virtuoso act together. Thomas had dived to push out Heath's cross shot. He then dealt similarly with a Snodin effort, before his little masterpiece, a full length dive to touch away Harper's 30-yarder.

The loss from the game of the collective skills of Beardsley, Sheedy, and Reid did not deprive the huge audience one jot of holiday entertainment.

Everton's second half form, as Newcastle were forced to

resort to strong-arm methods, proved that they are well capable of regaining the championship.

Neil McDonald, the Newcastle defender, was sent off for foul and abusive language in the burly-burly that heralded the final whistle.

Clarke, clutching the ball he claimed as a souvenir, said: "I felt a bit jaded in the first half but once the first one went in it gave us all the lift we needed. We were all relaxed afterwards and played some terrific football."

Howard Kendall, the Everton manager, deflected all talk of the championship following the win and Liverpool's defeat by Manchester United. He said: "We have 15 points to go for and that is our target. We won today and our closest rivals lost, so we are looking forward to next Saturday when we play Liverpool at Anfield. It will be nice to go there with a cushion."

Everton: M. Southall, G. Stevens, N. Pearson, K. Raza, D. Wright, A. Harper, T. Steven, A. Heath, I. Snodin, P. Power.
Newcastle: M. Thomas, M. Thomas, M. McDonald, K. Wharton, D. Jackson, P. Jackson, G. Roder, P. Sheehy (sub), I. Stewart, R. Galloway, P. Gossard, A. Thomas, B. Tyrone, R. Bales.
Full tables and results page 37



Treble-chaser: Clarke signals the first of his three goals for title-chasing Everton yesterday

Thorne suffers as Hendry makes history

By a Special Correspondent

Stephen Hendry caused the first shock of this year's Embassy world professional snooker championships by knocking out the No.8 seed Willie Thorne, at Sheffield yesterday.

Hendry, aged 18, from Queensferry, who has been tipped as a future world champion, beat Thorne, from Leicester, 10-7 to become the youngest player ever to reach the second round at The Crucible.

The young Scot led 5-4 overnight and took the first four frames on the resumption to leave Thorne, aged 33 and ranked No.7 in the world, with an impossible task. Thorne managed to prolong his agony by winning the next three frames and pulling up to 7-9 before Hendry completed victory with a 72-35 success in the seventeenth frame.

Thorne was visibly upset by a decision made by the match referee John Williams in the eleventh frame. Thorne was called for a foul after "feathering" the cue ball while attempting to pot the black, and Hendry came back to the table to sink a break of 32 that effectively gave him the frame and a 7-4 lead.

Thorne wilted, allowing Hendry to take the next two frames as well, but later said: "I have never cheated in my life. I have stood up off a shot many times when I have known that I have committed a foul but this was not one of those occasions. I honestly believe it was a mistake by the referee but we all make mistakes, including me, from time to time and there is nothing I can do about it."

"Perhaps I have not been as dedicated as I should have been this season. Maybe the fact that I reached a couple of semi-finals and a final a year or so ago made me think it would be too easy. Obviously, I was wrong."

Williams 'hurt' by drug allegations

Rex Williams has hit back at reports that he should resign as chairman of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) because he takes a nerve drug, beta-blocker.

"I am bitterly hurt by allegations which suggest the medication I take enhances my performance," said Williams. "I have never taken an illegal drug in my life."

Williams has been taking beta-blockers for 16 years since suffering a nervous breakdown. The drug has been banned by the International Olympic Committee, but there are no moves to ban it in professional snooker.

Thorne regained his composure to sink breaks of 47, 35 and 72 to take the next three frames but Hendry was always in charge and booked his place in the second round where he will meet Steve Longworth, who beat Kirk Stevens 10-4.

Hendry said: "A year's extra experience playing at the top level has given me a lot of confidence and even though Willie came back from 9-4 to 9-7, I still knew I would win. It's the best result of my career so far. I came here to play just one match. Now I have another one to play."

Terry Griffiths, of Wales, quickly snuffed out the challenge of Canada's Jim Wych, completing a 10-4 victory by winning all five frames played in yesterday's second session. Wych held an early 3-1 lead but had no answer when Griffiths called on his experience to romp through the final stages and book a place in the last 16.

RESULTS: R. Raymond to B. West 10-5; J. Johnson to E. Hughes (Rep of Ind.) 10-5; S. Davis to W. King (Aus.) 10-7; T. Griths to J. Wych (Can.) 10-4; M. McDonald to R. Williams, 10-5; A. Higgins leads J. Wright, 5-4; S. Longworth to K. Stevens (Can.) 10-4; S. Hendry to W. Thorne, 10-7; J. White (Eng) leads D. Reynolds (Eng), 5-4.

Robson robbed by injuries again

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

There are certain to be so many uncertainties among England's internationals that Bobby Robson will today announce three lists. Two of them will be the official senior and junior parties for the visit to Turkey next Wednesday. The other will be an unofficial group of half a dozen emergency replacements.

England's manager has already lost Beardsley, Liner's permanent partner in the front line since the World Cup finals in Mexico, and Webb, a midfield understudy who has yet to be used. He fears that he could also be without several other senior representatives, including his influential captain and namesake.

Bryan Robson will be included, if only because he himself insists that he could have recovered from a damaged ankle. So will Sansom, who asked for the chance to prove his fitness in front of Bobby Robson, who was among the audience at Highbury yesterday morning.

The name of Butcher, suffering from the same pelvic problem as Sansom, is another that will be written in pencil rather than in ink. So will that of Mabbott, the most versatile member of the squad.

Tottenham's defeat at West Ham United offered Bobby Robson some relief amid a series of setbacks. He was concerned that his five players, who form the largest club contingent among his current choices, might be too fatigued even if they managed to avoid injury during their congested programme.

But David Pleat, who conceded that Tottenham's already slender championship hopes had disappeared from realistic view, promised that he would "do my best to protect the England players".

Clive Allen, the likeliest substitute for Beardsley, could yet be the only fresh selection in an otherwise unchanged line-up. But Bobby Robson is preparing to have his plans disrupted if not dismantled before the squads leave for Izmir on Monday morning. Hence the need to put additional players on stand-by.

Dorico, of Aston Villa, and Pearce, of Nottingham Forest, are left-backs who have been watched by his assistant, Don Howe, for instance. Reid and Snodin, of Everton, Davis, of Arsenal and Hill, of Luton Town, are midfield possibilities. Cottee, of West Ham, is the forward most likely to profit from the absence of Beardsley.

Oxford grab a lifeline

Oxford United kept alive their hopes of first division survival with a fine 3-1 home win against Wimbledon yesterday. Whitehurst and Saunders gave them a 2-0 cushion at half-time, before Saunders hit his second to secure a valuable three points.

Another two-goal man was Coventry's Regis, who hit two in five minutes in the second half to put the FA Cup finalists ahead after Queen's Park Rangers' Gary Bannister had cancelled out Gynn's first half effort. Phillips added a fourth two minutes from time.

Nottingham Forest looked to be heading for only their second home defeat of the season against Norwich when Rosario scored in the 63rd minute, but Nigel Clough spared his father's blushes by forcing home the equalizer 15 minutes later.

In the morning match at Stamford Bridge, Southampton picked up a valuable point to inch themselves further out of relegation trouble. Clarke equalizing Nevin's first half goal for Chelsea.

The relief could be heard all around the Goldstone ground as Brighton managed their first win under the management of Barry Lloyd. Crystal Palace being the unlikely victims and Wilson and Hughes the architects of victory.

There were good away wins for Shrewsbury at WBA, Blackburn at Huddersfield and Barnsley at Stoke, while Sheffield United's recent promotion push ended in stalemate at Hull.

In the third division, Middlesbrough kept up the pressure on leaders Bournemouth with an away win at Carlisle while Swindon left it late against Brentford. Bryan the substitute, gaining a point three minutes from time.

In the fourth division, Wolverhampton Wanderers late run continued, a Prudie goal against Hereford putting them just one point behind Southend, who were sunk by Hill's 32nd goal of the season for Northampton.

Grobelaar's injury and late lapse hurt Liverpool cause

By Ian Ross

Manchester United 1
Liverpool 0

A championship which has been slipping from Liverpool's fingers for nearly a month fell at the feet of their greatest rivals yesterday. A Peter Davenport goal for Manchester United 90 seconds from time coupled with Everton's comprehensive win over Newcastle United almost certainly means that the league title will shortly travel to Goodison Park.

A further worry for the champions is Bruce Grobbelaar, the goalkeeper, who underwent X-rays and left Old Trafford with his right arm in a sling. He is doubtful for Saturday's derby when Everton go to Anfield with a six-point margin and a match cushion.

"Bruce's elbow is badly swollen, but we have no idea of the extent of the damage," said Kenny Dalglish, Liverpool's player-manager. "We still believe we are in with a shout. We will not surrender until it is mathematically impossible to retain our title. Obviously, Saturday is crucial; if they win, the title will go to Everton."

United, led by the courageous if over-zealous Whiteside, enjoyed a higher percentage of the early possession, but were too often committed in Liverpool's defensive blanket to pose anything approaching a genuine threat. Liverpool seemed almost reluctant to commit themselves to an attacking policy, an unfathomable decision.

The distinctly low key nature of the game was reflected in the chances created. Walsh, the United goalkeeper, had just one shot to save in the first half and Whiteside went closest to breaking the deadlock when he threw himself at a Gibson cross in the 43rd minute only for Grobbelaar to touch behind his head.

The crowd of 54,103 - the largest for a league game this season - must have been grateful that the nonchalant tempo was improved after the interval. With Strachan, the Scottish international, beginning to orchestrate from the right of midfield and Rush, seeking his first goal against United, increasingly active upfront, the ebb and flow became quite mesmerizing.

Liverpool took 70 minutes to create a clear-cut chance, but prompted only a calamitous miss by Walsh. That inspired United to pour forward and Whiteside saw Grobbelaar match his acrobatic bicycle kick. Grobbelaar damaged his right elbow during that save, but still turned aside a Strachan shot after Whiteside's inspired pass from deep within his own half.

United secured a victory they just about deserved in the dying seconds when Davenport drove home after Hansen, of all players, allowed the ball to run free.

MANCHESTER UNITED: G. Walsh, J. Sheehy, A. Gibson (sub), P. Davenport, R. Hansen, P. Davenport, K. Wharton, M. McDonald, G. Strachan, P. Davenport, N. Whiteside, C. Gibson.

LIVERPOOL: B. Grobbelaar, G. Gillespie, B. Venson, N. Spaceman, R. Whelan, A. Hansen, P. Walsh, C. Johnson, I. Rush, G. Referees: B. Stevens

Spain pin hopes on Carrasco

Madrid (Reuters) - Francisco Carrasco was named yesterday in Spain's squad for the crucial European Championship qualifier against Romania in Bucharest next week, even though he is suffering from a leg injury.

Carrasco, who earlier this month scored a brilliant solo goal in the final seconds to give Spain a 3-2 win over Austria in Vienna, was taken off when he pulled a muscle during Barcelona's league match against Real Mallorca yesterday.

Miguel Munoz, national coach, is gambling on Carrasco, a forward, being fit for the game on April 29 when a win would virtually ensure the Spaniards a place in the finals. Spain are two points clear of Romania at the top of group one with maximum points from their three games and have still to play Austria and Albania at home.

Munoz named Julio Salinas, of Atletico Madrid, as cover for Carrasco in his 17-man squad.

SQUAD: Goalkeepers: Andoni Zubizarreta (Barcelona), Francisco Bufo (Real Madrid); Defenders: Ricardo Gallego, Manuel Sanchez, Jose Camacho (all Real Madrid), Genaro Argente, Antonio Zubizarreta (both Atletico Madrid), Miguel Soler (Espanol); Midfielders: Victor Mox, Ramon Caldera, Roberto Fernandez (all Sporting), Michel Gonzalez (Real Madrid), Joaquin Alcaraz (Sporting Gijon); Forwards: Julio Salinas (Atletico Madrid), Emilio Butraguenio (Real Madrid), Francisco Carrasco (Barcelona), Eloy Gago (Sporting Gijon).

Gyorgy Mezey, Hungary's coach at the 1986 World Cup finals, has been dismissed by Kuwait, the fifth foreign coach to lose his job with the national team in five years (Reuters reports from Kuwait).

No reason for the dismissal was given by KUNA, the Kuwait news agency, which broke the news.

Mezey resigned as Hungary's coach after the team failed to reach the second phase of the World Cup finals in Mexico last June. Saleh Zacharia, a Kuwaiti, who was brought in as caretaker manager last year when Malcolm Allison, of England, was removed from the post after only nine months, will take over.

Paraguay ban Monte Carlo (Reuters) - The International Tennis Federation has ordered Paraguay to play their second-round Davis Cup tie against Spain at a neutral venue and banned them from home matches until 1988 following crowd trouble and intimidation of the referee during their 3-2 victory over the United States last month in Asuncion.

Sudden death Garth McGimpsey, the British amateur representative in the US Masters at Augusta, was beaten at the second extra hole by Ende McMenamin, a fellow Ulsterman, in the second round of the West of Ireland championship.

Final charge Jan Stephenson, of Australia, won the first prize of \$45,000 (about £28,000) by one stroke at the inaugural Santa Barbara Open on Sunday.

Finnish flop Vienna (Reuters) - West Germany confirmed their growing prestige by beating Finland 3-1 in the world ice hockey championship yesterday.

Home ties Heworth and Simms Cross have been drawn at home in the semi-finals of the national amateur rugby league cup against West Bank and Thatto Heath on Saturday.

Hard hitter Mike McCallum, of Jamaica, kept his World Boxing Association light-middleweight title for the fifth time in Phoenix on Sunday, stopping Milton McCrory, of the United States, in the tenth round. It was the 28th time McCallum has stopped opponents in an unbeaten run of 31 fights.

Sweet return Bilbo Bagness, the British orienteering team's No.1, who was disqualified for mispunching a control in the Paper Sacks Jan Kjellstrom international at Scarborough over Easter, made amends yesterday. His disqualification allowed Robert Bloor to record two victories, but yesterday Bagness anchored Airmen's relay team to victory over South Yorkshire.

US riders revel in drubbing British

By Michael Scott

Rivalry between the two top American motorcycle riders kept excitement high to the end of the Shell Oils Transatlantic Challenge at Donington Park yesterday, long after all hope had gone of anything but a resounding British defeat.

Wayne Rainey led the American team to victory by 933.5 points to 745.5, but lost his personal battle with Kevin Schwantz, his 22-year-old Texan team-mate, who won the top points scorer award for the second successive year.

The first race saw Schwantz attempt to escape, only to be stalked in the closing laps by Rainey, and again pushed into a last-lap error.

Ron Haslam, the British captain who pulled out yesterday, returned only to face more disappointment when his troublesome Honda started mis-firing. He finished 13th, and withdrew from further racing.

"Until we have Superbike racing in this country, and have fully-developed Superbikes of our own, we'll never match the Americans under the present rules," he said.

In the second race, Rainey muffed the start, and was caught up with slower traffic.

as Schwantz made good his escape, closely tailed by Goodfellow. Rainey worked his way to third at the finish.

In the final race, Rainey led from start to finish, with Schwantz happy to settle for a safe second, and the £5,000 prize for scoring the most points.

In 17 years, this is only the sixth time the American team have won, but they have produced the top individual scorer 10 times.

RESULTS: Seventh Round: 1. W. Rainey (US, Honda), 14m 11.8s; 2. K. Schwantz (US, Suzuki), 14m 20.8s; 3. Goodfellow (US, Suzuki), 14m 11.4s; 4. P. Best (UK, Yamaha), 14m 18.7s; 5. R. Haslam (UK, Yamaha), 14m 24.8s; 6. K. Schwantz (US, Suzuki), 14m 27.1s; 7. K. Schwantz (US, Suzuki), 14m 27.1s; 8. Goodfellow (US, Suzuki), 14m 28.4s; 9. Rainey (US, Honda), 14m 42.2s; 10. P. Best (UK, Yamaha), 14m 43.4s; 11. R. Haslam (UK, Yamaha), 14m 43.4s; 12. K. Schwantz (US, Suzuki), 14m 43.4s; 13. K. Schwantz (US, Suzuki), 14m 43.4s; 14. K. Schwantz (US, Suzuki), 14m 43.4s; 15. K. Schwantz (US, Suzuki), 14m 43.4s; 16. K. Schwantz (US, Suzuki), 14m 43.4s; 17. K. Schwantz (US, Suzuki), 14m 43.4s; 18. K. Schwantz (US, Suzuki), 14m 43.4s; 19. K. Schwantz (US, Suzuki), 14m 43.4s; 20. K. Schwantz (US, Suzuki), 14m 43.4s; 21. K. Schwantz (US, Suzuki), 14m 43.4s; 22. K. Schwantz (US, Suzuki), 14m 43.4s; 23. K. Schwantz (US, Suzuki), 14m 43.4s; 24. K. Schwantz (US, Suzuki), 14m 43.4s; 25. K. 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